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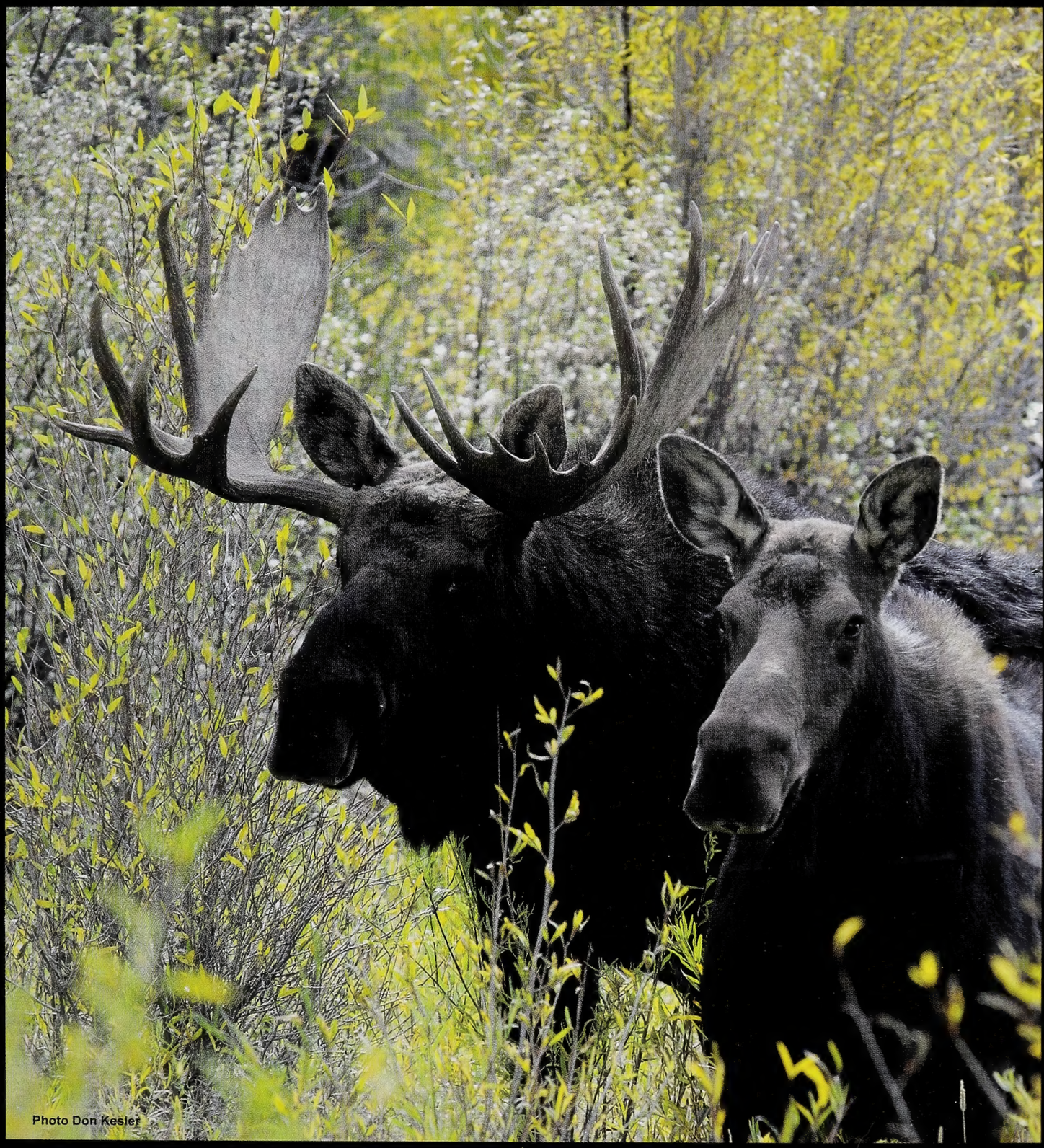


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2011 Deer Hunters

Your Role in CWD Surveillance

The ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program targets CWD risk areas in wildlife management units (WMUs) along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border, as indicated on the map. Although CWD continues to expand geographically and numerically, the risk of harvesting an infected deer remains low. In 2010, 20 cases were identified in over 5100 deer tested (0.4%).

The zone of **MANDATORY** submission of heads from all hunter-harvested deer remains the same as 2010.

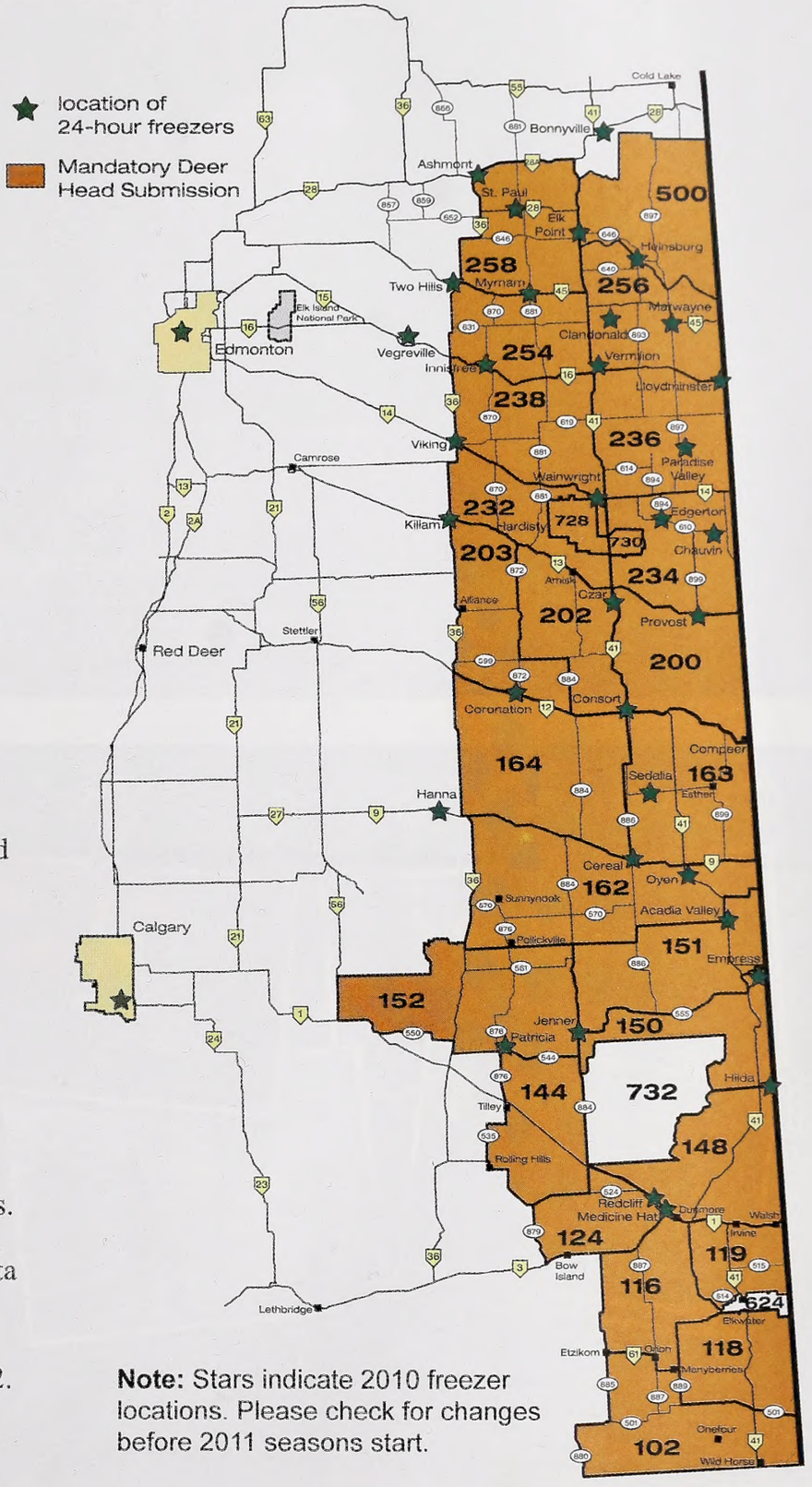
It is **MANDATORY** to submit deer heads from WMUs

102, 116, 118, 119, 124,
144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 162, 163, 164,
200, 202, 203, 232, 234, 236, 238, 254, 256, 258,
500, 728, and 730

Heads for testing must have a green CWD label that provides a unique identification number for each deer head submitted. Pick up labels and instructions after you shoot your deer. They are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at 24-hour freezers in CWD risk areas. Heads should be kept frozen and dropped off at any Fish and Wildlife office, at any of the freezers, or at a mobile head drop-off centre. CWD test results are provided online to hunters as soon as possible.

Hunting opportunities in the border areas continue to be liberal in order to maintain hunting pressure on deer populations and to standardize seasons and opportunities. In the border areas, there are abundant opportunities to harvest multiple deer of both species. Check the 2011 ***Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*** for specific details.

For more detailed information about CWD visit the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, wildlife diseases website www.srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/WildlifeDiseases/ or contact Dr. M. Pybus (780) 427-3462. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free long distance calls.



Note: Stars indicate 2010 freezer locations. Please check for changes before 2011 seasons start.

There is no scientific evidence to suggest that CWD can affect humans. As a precaution, the World Health Organization (WHO) advises against animals infected with any prion disease entering the food chain.



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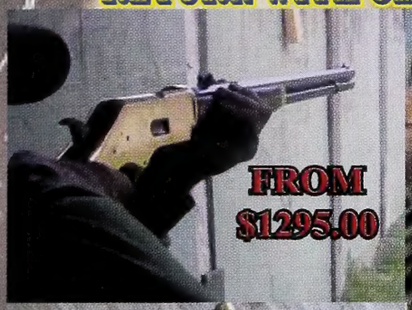
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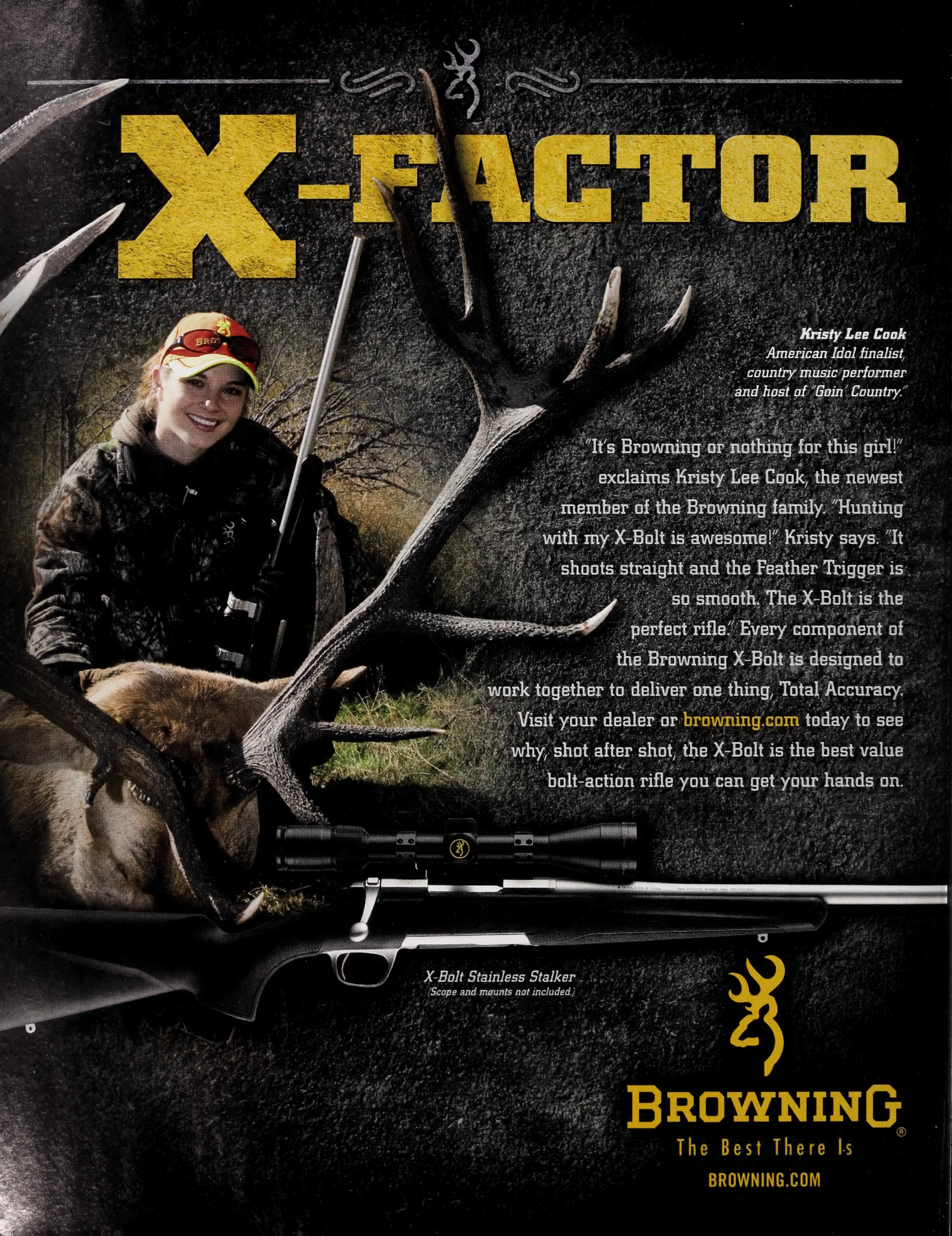
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Notice to Hunters

The Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development frequently conducts vehicle checks to assist in the management of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

For more than 100 years, Alberta has protected and conserved wildlife resources through managed hunting. To ensure our hunting tradition is passed to future generations, Sustainable Resource Development continues to pursue improvements to provide safe, enjoyable hunting.

We have moved to a two-year cycle for hunting regulations to provide more time to plan and complete consultations. This change also gives hunters two years of consistent regulations. Regulation guides will still be published annually.

Interest in our online hunting and fishing licensing system, albertarelm.com, continues to grow with 65 per cent of special licence draw applications purchased online. The online system also provides a quick and easy way to gather feedback on hunter harvest and surveys. This online feedback provides our staff with a more efficient and proactive way to evaluate game management programs.

Grizzly bears frequently use black bear baiting sites, so baiting will now be prohibited within portions of three Wildlife Management Units. This partial ban on black bear baiting supports hunter safety and ongoing grizzly bear conservation efforts as outlined in the Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. Please check the regulations guide for more details.

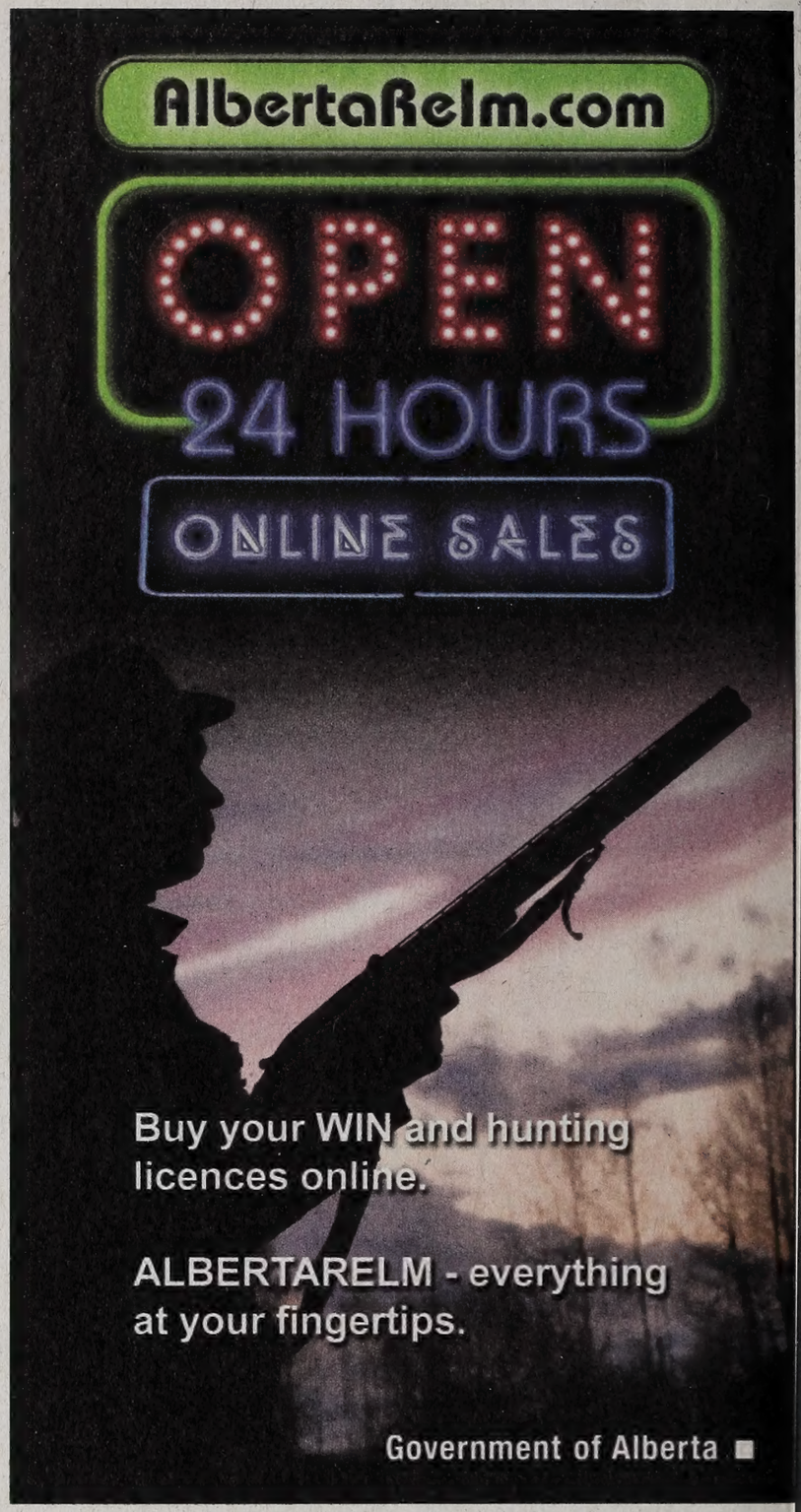
Landowners can now keep cougars lawfully hunted on their land and are no longer required to turn them over to the department. This change reduces waste from landowner harvest.

Encouraging participation in hunting continues to be a priority. Hunters with a severe disability who hold a weapons discharge permit are now authorized to hunt from any kind of vehicle parked in a safe hunting location (not just from an off-highway vehicle). I am also pleased that hunting is becoming more popular with young Albertans with 2010 seeing an increase of five per cent in the number of youth hunters.

The Alberta government supports hunting as a way to enjoy Alberta's outdoors. Be careful in the field, respect the land and be sure to get permission for access where required. Best wishes for a quality hunting experience.

Mel R. Knight,
Minister

Government of Alberta







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Disclaimers

This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta hunting regulations. It is a summary of the regulations and is published annually by Sports Scene Publications Inc. to help hunters understand the rules of hunting. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16).

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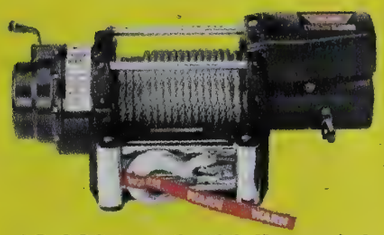
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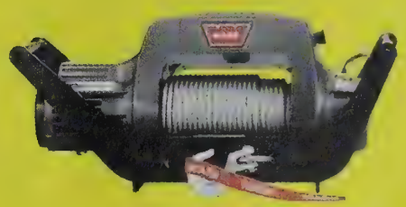
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IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2011

GENERAL

- **NEW for 2011**, the tag colour has been changed from **orange** to **yellow.** For online purchase, the new yellow tags are available at your local Fish and Wildlife Division District office free of charge. Hunters are asked to destroy any of the old orange tags left over from past seasons.
- **Beginning 2012** the Hunting Draw Booklet and priorities will **NO LONGER** be mailed directly to past draw applicants. An email will be sent to advise applicants when the booklet will be available at Fish and Wildlife Division District offices, Licence Issuers and online.
- Draw applicants with an email address recorded on albertarelm.com will no longer receive their draw results by mail. They will receive email notification (starting July 14, 2011) directing them to view their draw results online at albertarelm.com.
- Alberta Transportation changed the way that primary and secondary highways are defined, renaming both types as "provincial highways". This change also affected the *Wildlife Act* and no longer allows a person to hunt game birds using a shotgun along a secondary highway (such as Hwy 734, known as the Forestry Trunk Road). See page 18 for details.
- **Bear and Cougar seasons are now on pages 59 and 60.**
- Landowners are encouraged to report situations where a person trespasses on their land and harvests wildife. An amendment has improved the courts ability to deal with situations where wildlife was taken on lands where no access permission had been granted, or in a location where the person was prohibited from discharging a weapon.
- Alberta residents may now hunt (or trap) red squirrel on private land.

BIG GAME

- In WMUs 210 and 400 - 414, big game hunting is now permitted on Sundays during open seasons.
- An archery and general hunting season for antlered elk (3-point or larger) has been created in WMU 508.
- An archery and Antlerless Elk Special Licence hunting season for antlerless elk in WMU 508 has been created.
- An archery and general hunting season for antlered elk (3-point or larger) has been created in WMU 525.
- The antlered elk hunting season in WMU 526 has been changed from a Special Licence to a General Licence (3-point or larger).
- An Antlered and Antlerless Elk Special Licence hunting season has been created for WMU 151 and 152.
- An archery-only hunting season for Antlered and Antlerless Elk Special Licences has been added for WMUs 164, 166 and 208.
- The Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence has been replaced with an Either Sex Elk Special Licence. **Applicant's priorities accumulated in the Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence Draw (Draw Code 20) will be transferred to this draw (Draw Code 41) but only if they apply for this draw in 2011.**
- The Antlered and Antlerless Elk Special Licence hunting season in WMUs 728/730 (Camp Wainwright) has been replaced with an Either Sex Elk Special Licence.
- An Antlered and Antlerless Moose Special Licence hunting season has been created in WMU 151.
- The Antlered, Antlerless and Calf Moose Special Licence in WMU 728/730 have been split into three separate seasons for each licence type.
- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is no longer valid in WMUs 150, 151, 162, 163, 240, 242, 250, 252, 260, 504 and 506.
- The hunting of antlerless white-tailed deer in WMUs 150, 151, 162 and 163 now requires an Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence.
- Holders of an Antelope Archery Special Licence will be able to harvest either a trophy or non-trophy antelope.
- The hunting season for mountain goats has been opened in Goat Hunting Areas C and Q.
- Cougar seasons have been expanded. For season dates and open WMUs refer to page 59.
- During cougar registration a small premolar tooth will be removed before the skull and skin are returned to the hunter..
- Baiting for black bears is now prohibited in portions of WMUs 320, 324 and 526.
- New restrictions apply to the use of bait for hunting wolves or coyotes on public land. See page 61.
- It has been common practice for groups of hunters to meet at one hunters home in order to butcher their big game. Legislation has been changed to accommodate this accepted practice, allowing the tag and evidence or class, sex, and species to be removed at the usual residence of a resident of Alberta, provided that the resident is in attendance and the animal is being cut up and packaged. See page 41 for more details.
- Sheep hunters are reminded that they must view a sheep "in profile" (on a horizontal plane with the front of the right and left horn bases aligned) in order to be certain whether the sheep meets the definition of a Trophy Sheep or a Full-Curl Trophy Sheep. See page 40.

BIRD GAME

- There are changes to game bird season dates, changes to the list of open WMUs that have open seasons, and changes to bag limits. See page 63.
- The Camp Wainwright ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse season has been opened for 2011.

WMU DESCRIPTIONS

The WMU boundaries shown on the enclosed map are small-scale approximations of the actual units legally described in the *Wildlife Regulation* (AR 143/97) and subsequent amendments. The map enclosed in this Guide is provided to help you identify the WMU in which you wish to hunt. **It is your responsibility to know in which WMU you are hunting and the seasons, rules and regulations that govern hunting in that WMU.** Text descriptions of the WMU boundaries may be either read at your nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or through the Alberta Queen's Printer website (www.qp.alberta.ca) or purchased from The Alberta Queen's Printer at the following address:

Alberta Queen's Printer
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Telephone: (780) 427-4952

NOTE: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.

MAPS

Maps providing information about access, topography and land ownership can be purchased at several locations throughout the province. Contact your local Map Dealer. Map Dealer locations are highlighted on the Map Distribution Centre external website at srd.alberta.ca

Provincial and Federal Maps

Provincial and federal access and topographical maps are available from various private map dealers throughout the province.

County and Other Municipal Maps

Hunters are reminded to check with county and municipal offices for detailed maps showing land ownership status. These maps are available for a nominal fee and are useful for determining land status and ownership, which can help you obtain permission for access.

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INTERNET LICENSING – THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

BACKGROUND

What is albertarelm.com?

Albertarelm.com is a website built specifically for anglers and hunters and is funded in part by your licence fees. By registering on this site, hunters and anglers can buy or renew their Wildlife Identification Number card (WIN), buy sportfishing licences and hunting licences, and apply for their draws online.

Hunters and anglers can view their licence purchases for the past five years, including their draw application history, draw results and priorities, update their addresses and telephone numbers and receive directed information.

What is a WIN

A WIN is your unique Wildlife Identification Number which is required to purchase all your fishing and hunting licences (see page 20).

Prior to 2008, fishing and hunting licences were only available at private sector licence issuers located throughout the province. There are more than 360 private sector licence issuers with licences available during business hours.

In 2008, Sustainable Resource Development in conjunction with IBM expanded your options with the introduction of online licence sales. You can now visit albertarelm.com and purchase or renew your WIN and purchase your sportfishing licence and hunting licences and apply for draws.

ONLINE PURCHASES

What do I need to purchase an online licence?

You will need a valid credit card, an email address, access to a computer with an internet connection and a printer to print your licences. If you do not have an email address, free addresses are available through internet service providers or free email services such as Hotmail and Gmail. Credit cards accepted are Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

If you purchase a licence online that requires a tag(s) you must use an online paper tag. The online paper tags contain a unique 10 digit tag number. You are required to enter it when making your purchase. Tags are available at your local Fish and Wildlife Division District office free of charge. Print your licence once your purchase is complete. You do not need to wait for a licence to be mailed or go to another location to pick it up. If you lose your online licence, you can reprint the licence online at no cost.

What does it cost to buy an online licence?

Your online licence will cost the same as a licence purchased at your local licence issuer. The cost varies according to the type of licence you buy. There are no added service fees.

What are the technical requirements for my computer for online purchases?

Your internet browser should use Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 6.0 or newer or Firefox Version 3.5 or higher. To print your licence, your operating system should be Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 8 or higher. Adobe Acrobat is available as a free download once you are connected to the internet.

Is there someone I can call if I have problems when I try to purchase a licence?

You can call the albertarelm Help Desk (1-888-944-5494) for assistance. You can also send e-mail inquiries to drawhunt@ca.ibm.com

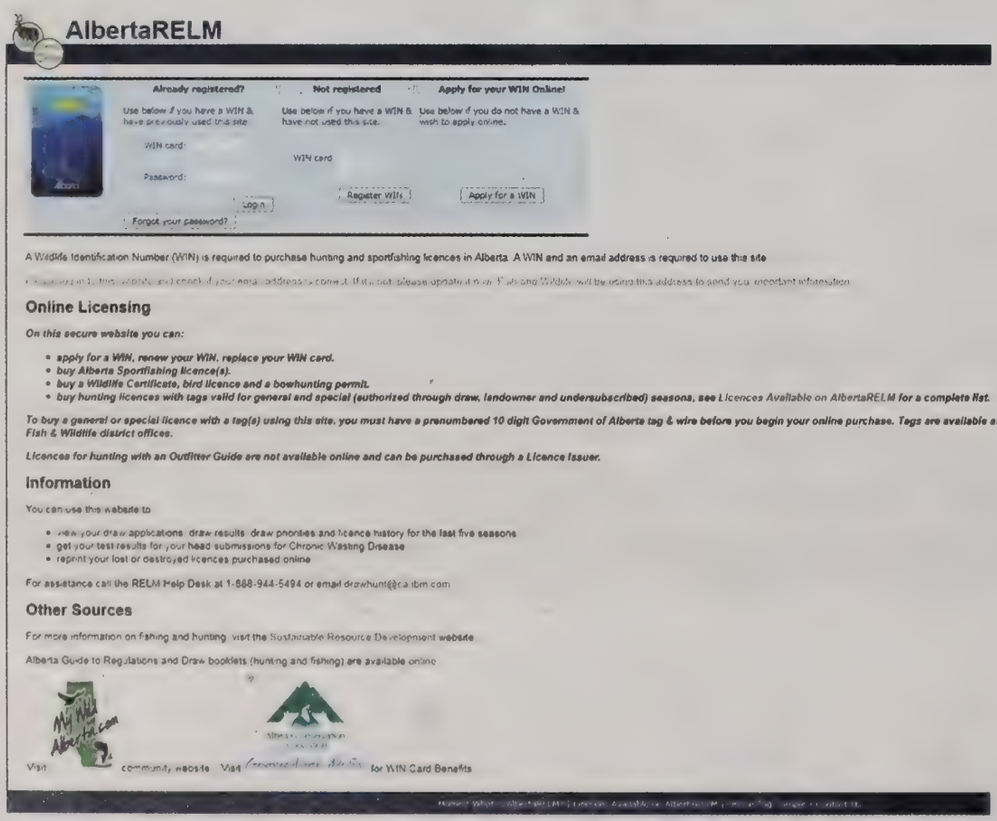
How do I know my information is secure?

Your internet browser will indicate that you are operating on a secure server. You will know this as the URL of the website will begin with an "https" rather than "http" and there will be a closed padlock on the status bar.

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HOW TO ACCESS THE ONLINE SYSTEM



Already registered?

Enter your WIN and the password you selected when you registered the first time. Forgot your password? Click on this button to re-register.

Need to Register your WIN

Register your WIN the first time you access your personal information.

1. Enter your WIN (10 digits)
2. Enter the identification number you provided when you applied for your WIN. This would be your driver's licence number, health care number or passport number. This is a security measure to ensure only you can access your personal information.
3. Your WIN and your identification number are used to verify your identity. This will prevent anyone else from logging in and accessing your personal information. Enter a password of your choice and your email address. If you have any problems, contac the RELM Help Desk at 1-888-944-5494.

Apply for your WIN Online!

If you do not have a WIN, you can apply online. Immediately after purchasing your WIN you will be able to purchase your draw application, hunting and/or sportfishing licences online.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

Antlered – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

Antlerless – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not "antlered" (as defined above).

Bait – any substance that consists of a food attractant, including any mineral and any representation of a food attractant.

Big Game Designated Guide – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide big game hunters in Alberta. A Designated Guide may guide not more than two Non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien big game hunters at a time in any part of Alberta, provided that each Non-resident (Canadian) or Non-resident alien has contracted the hunt through an Outfitter-guide. The two-hunter limit does not include Resident hunters.

Big Game Outfitter-guide – a person who is the holder of a valid Outfitter-guide Permit, and who provides outfitting and guiding services to big game hunters in Alberta.

- Class S Outfitter-guide – an Outfitter-guide who holds Non-resident (Canadian)/Non-resident Alien allocations for Trophy Sheep Special Licences. A Class S Outfitter-guide may also hold allocations for other big game special licences.
- Class T Outfitter-guide – an Outfitter-guide who holds allocations valid for Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien big game special licences other than those for trophy sheep.

Bird Game Designated Guide – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide game bird hunters in Alberta.

Bird Game Outfitter-guide – a person who is the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit issued by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society and who provides outfitting and guiding services to non-resident and non-resident alien game bird hunters in Alberta.

Either Sex Special Elk – authorizes the hunting of any age, size, or gender of elk in a specific WMU.

Green Area – forest lands not available for agricultural development other than grazing. In general, the Green Area is public land outside the parkland and prairie regions or roughly in the northern half of the province and within a strip running along the Rocky Mountains and foothills.

Hunter Host – an adult resident who is the holder of a valid Hunter Host Licence. To obtain this licence, the adult must hold a valid WIN and be eligible to hold recreational hunting licences. A Hunter Host **may not provide services for gain or reward or accept a fee for services, directly or indirectly**.
The licence authorizes the holder **(usually a relative or friend of the hunters to be hosted)** to host a maximum of two non-residents (Canadian) or non-resident aliens* named on the host's licence to hunt wolf, coyote and big game throughout the province.
* Non-resident alien hunters are referred to Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 23) for additional conditions and restrictions.

Loaded Firearm – A firearm in or on a vehicle, aircraft or boat is considered loaded if it has live ammunition in the breech, chamber **or magazine**. Cartridges are permitted in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm.

Non-resident (Canadian) – a person who is not a Resident (see below), but who makes his or her home and is ordinarily present in Canada, and who has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date.

Non-resident Alien – a person who is neither a Resident (see below) nor a Non-resident (see above).

OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) – any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh or swamp land, or on other natural terrain.
[Exceptions: motor boats, as well as four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles registered in accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*.] OHVs include the following kinds of vehicles when they are designed for cross-country travel as described above:

- four-wheel drive or low pressure tire vehicles,
- motorcycles and related two-wheel vehicles,
- amphibious machines,
- all-terrain vehicles,
- miniature motor vehicles,
- snow vehicles,
- minibikes, or
- any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular power or wind.

Partner Licence – a licence issued to an eligible hunter that allows him or her to hunt a specific species in a specified WMU and season under the direct authority of a Special Licence held by another hunter successful in a draw.

Resident – a person who either

- has his or her only or primary residence in Alberta and
 1) is a Canadian citizen or is admitted to **permanent** residence in Canada, or
 2) has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date; or
- is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Act* (Canada), be eligible to vote in Alberta under that Act.

Special Licence – a licence obtained through a draw process, or for Non-resident and Non-resident Alien hunters, through an Outfitter-guide. It permits hunting of a specific type or class of game only in specific areas during a specified season (page 22).

Weapon – a firearm or any other device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, spring, air, gas, string, wire or elastic material or any combination of those things.

White Geese – snow and Ross' geese.

WMU – Wildlife Management Unit, a geographical area prescribed in legislation.

WIN – Wildlife Identification Number, a permanent registration number issued to each hunter and angler.

Month Abbreviations

The following defines the month abbreviations used in this guide:

A – August S – September O – October
N – November D – December
J – January F – February M – March
Ap – April Ma – May Ju – June

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FURTHER INQUIRIES

The following sources are available for further information about these regulations or other matters concerning fish or wildlife management:

Information Centre 780-944-0313
E-mail: srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca

Websites — albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.com

Fish and Wildlife Division
Head Office Mailing Address

Fish and Wildlife Division
Great West Life Building
9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

Fish and Wildlife Division District Office Telephone Numbers

For toll-free access within Alberta to most Alberta Government offices, call 310-0000.

Office hours vary, please contact the individual office for hours of operation.

Northwest Region

Fairview	780-835-2737
Fort Vermilion	780-927-4488
***Grande Prairie**	780-538-5265
***High Level**	780-926-2238
High Prairie	780-523-6521
Manning	780-836-3065
***Peace River**	780-624-6405
Red Earth	780-649-3853
***Slave Lake**	780-849-7123
Spirit River	780-864-4101
Valleyview	780-524-3605

Northeast Region

Athabasca	780-675-2419
Bonnyville	780-826-3142
Cold Lake	780-594-7876
Edmonton	780-427-3574
Fort Chipewyan	780-697-3511
***Fort McMurray**	780-743-7200
***Lac La Biche**	780-623-5247
St. Paul	780-645-6313
Smoky Lake	780-656-3556

Southwest Region

Barrhead	780-674-8236
Blairmore	403-562-3289
Canmore	403-678-2373
Claresholm	403-625-1450
Cochrane	403-932-2388
Drayton Valley	780-542-6616
***Edson**	780-723-8244
Evansburg	780-727-3635
Fox Creek	780-622-3421
Grande Cache	780-827-3356
High River	403-652-8330
Hinton	780-865-8264
Nordegg	403-721-3965
Pincher Creek	403-627-1116
***Rocky Mountain House**	403-845-8230
Stony Plain (Spruce Grove)	780-960-8190
Sundre	403-638-3805
Swan Hills	780-333-2229
***Whitecourt**	780-778-7112

Southeast Region

Brooks	403-362-1232
***Calgary**	403-297-6423
Camrose	780-679-1225
Cardston	403-653-5158
Coronation	403-578-3223
Drumheller	403-823-1670
Foremost	403-867-3826
Hanna	403-854-5540
Lethbridge	403-381-5266
Lloydminster	780-871-6495
Medicine Hat	403-529-3680
Olds	403-556-4215
Oyen	403-664-3614
Ponoka	403-783-7093
Provost	780-753-2433
***Red Deer**	403-340-5142
Stettler	403-742-7510
Strathmore	403-934-3422
Vegreville	780-632-5410
Vermilion	780-853-8137
Vulcan	403-485-6971
Wetaskiwin	780-361-1250

***Area Office**



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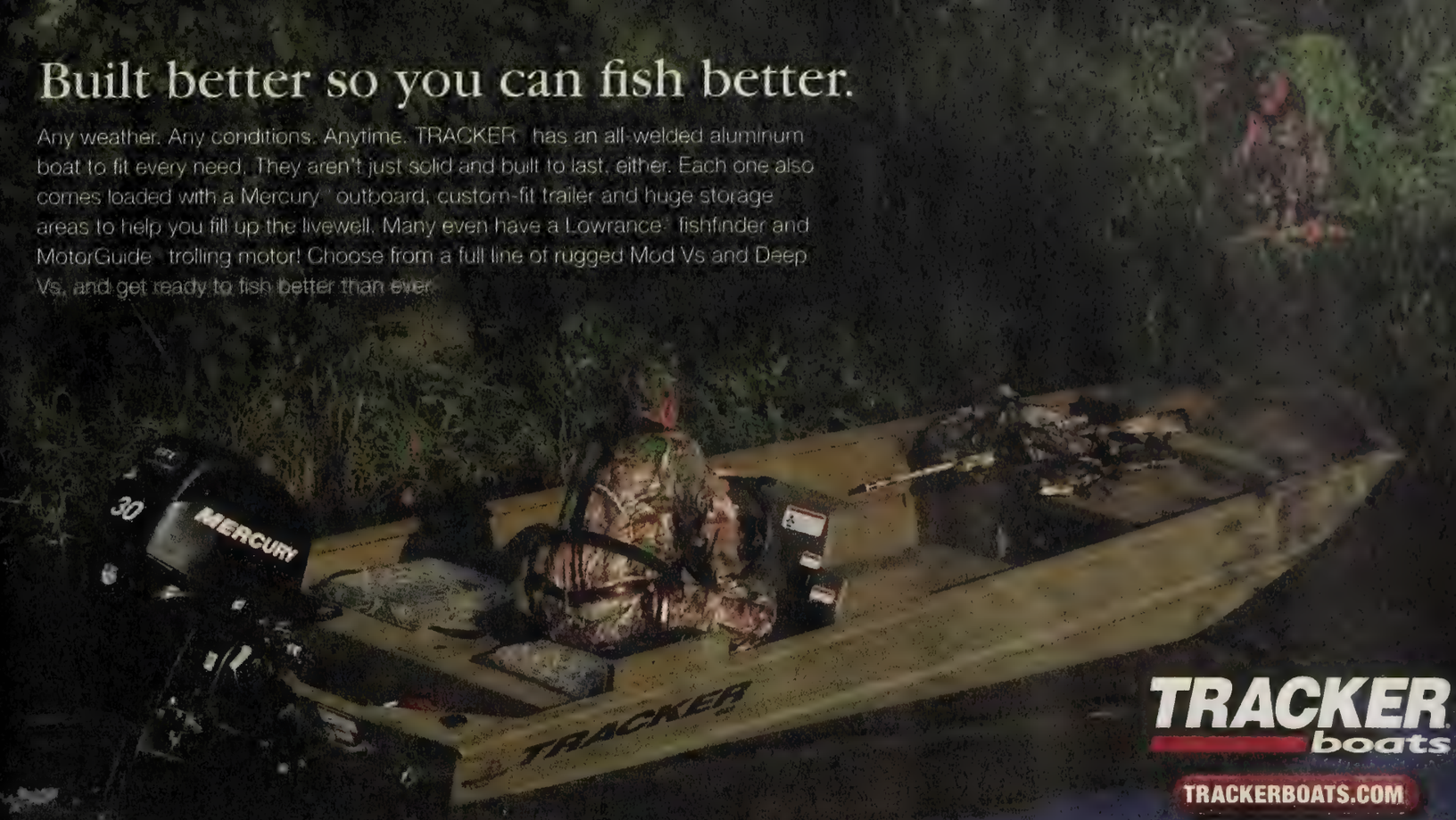
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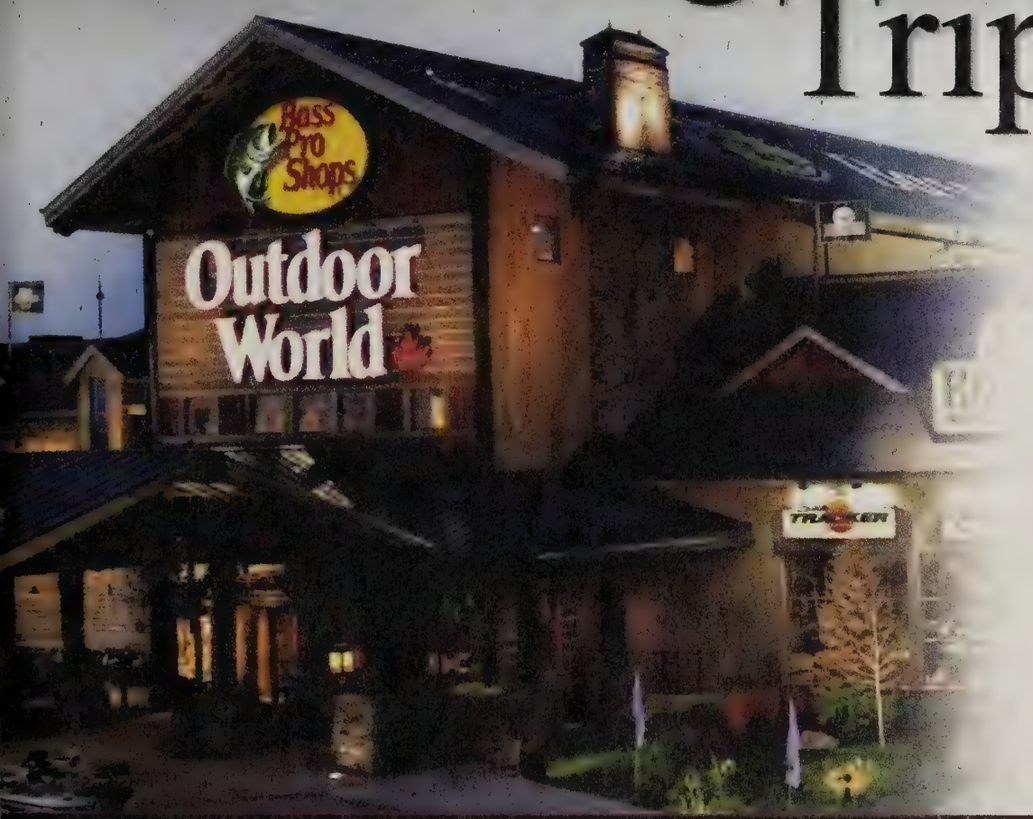


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Prohibitions

Note: ***Convictions for certain offences will result in the suspension of all recreational hunting licences for a period of 1 to 3 years, and may result in a suspension for as long as 5 or more years. This is in addition to the assessment of a fine, an order and/or imprisonment.***

General

It is unlawful to

1. • **apply on draws or obtain recreational licences in Alberta if:**
 i) your hunting privileges are under a licence suspension/cancellation in Alberta (or elsewhere) or
 ii) if you fail to pay your fine after being convicted of a provincial hunting or provincial sportfishing offence.
 • carry or use another person's licence or tag or allow another person to use your licence or tag.

2. harass, injure or kill any wildlife with a vehicle, aircraft or boat.

3. hunt any wildlife with or from an aircraft, or communicate, for the purpose of hunting, the signs or whereabouts of wildlife seen during a flight on an aircraft.

4. transport dead wildlife taken by others without an accompanying bill of lading (see page 68) signed by the licence or permit holder and providing the following details:
 • the kind and number of the licence under which the wildlife was killed or possessed,
 • a description of the wildlife,
 • the points of origin and destination, and
 • the date on which the wildlife is to be transported.

5. set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting any wildlife:**
 • an arrow equipped with an explosive head,
 • a firearm that is capable of firing more than one bullet during one pressure of the trigger or a firearm that can be altered to operate as such,
 • a light,
 • a shotgun of a gauge greater than 10,
 • a device designed to deaden the sound of the report of a firearm,
 • recorded wildlife calls or sounds, or an electronically operated calling device except; 1) when hunting migratory game birds with the use of calls or sounds that mimic snow geese and the hunting does not occur with the use of decoys that mimic migratory game birds other than snow geese, or 2) using electronic calls can be used to hunt crows, magpies, coyote, rabbits and hare, red fox and wolf (using sounds that mimic these animals or rodents).
 • a pistol or revolver unless
 – the person is a licenced trapper (holding a federal authorization) who is dispatching an animal caught in a trap, or
 – it is an air powered pistol or revolver that discharges a projectile at less than 500 feet per second (often used for hunting small game).
 • live wildlife,
 • a swivel set or spring gun, or
 • a poisonous substance or an immobilizing drug.

6. abandon, destroy or allow the edible meat of any game bird or big game animal (except cougar or bear), to become unfit for human consumption.

7. have a loaded firearm (live ammunition in breech, chamber or magazine) in or on, or discharge a **weapon** from
 • a boat unless the boat is propelled by muscular power or is at anchor and the person is hunting, or
 • any kind of aircraft or vehicle whether it is moving or stationary.
 Note: Ammunition may be carried in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm. Refer to page 20 for contact information regarding federal firearms legislation.

8. discharge a **weapon** within 183 m (200 yards) or cause a projectile from a **weapon** to pass within 183 m (200 yards) of any occupied building. Owners, occupants, or persons authorized by the owner or occupant are excepted, subject to local bylaws.

9. discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across:
 a) a provincial highway (this designation applies to all former primary and secondary highways),
 b) a road that is paved, oiled, graded or regularly maintained, unless
 ○ the road is held under any active disposition under the *Public Lands Act* or under an order under the *Surface Rights Act*, or
 ○ the person is hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence.
 Note: if there is no identifiable ditch or fence to mark the outside edge of the roadway, then the roadway extends 20 feet from the edge of the traveled portion.

10. hunt any wildlife while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

11. hunt any wildlife **or discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. (See sunrise/sunset table on page 52).

12. alter, destroy or remove any sign or notice that has been posted under the authority of the *Wildlife Act, Petty Trespass Act* or the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.

13. hunt any wildlife or discharge any firearm on or over occupied land or enter on to such land for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land (page 32).
 NOTE: There is an additional requirement affecting access for guided hunts (page 32).

14. possess a firearm of a calibre larger than .22 in a helicopter over WMUs 400-446.

15. hunt with a firearm if you are under **18** years of age and not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian. See page 20 for Canadian Firearms Centre contact information.

16. disturb traps, sets or trapping cabins.

Big Game

It is unlawful to

1. set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting big game:**
 • ammunition of less than .23 calibre,
 • ammunition that contains non-expanding bullets,
 • an auto-loading firearm that has the capacity to hold more than 5 cartridges in the magazine,
 • a shotgun having a gauge of .410 or less,
 • a shotgun in a bird sanctuary,
 • bait, except as permitted for the hunting of black bears (page 60),
 • an arrow other than an authorized arrow (page 41),
 • a bow other than an authorized bow (page 41),
 • a muzzle-loading firearm of less than .44 calibre,
 • a rifle or shotgun in WMUs 212, 248 or 410 (persons hunting under the authority of a Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence, a Foothills Deer Licence, or an Antlerless Moose Special Licence in Strathcona County may hunt with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun),

- a trap,
- a cross-bow and arrow that is not authorized (see page 62).

2. discharge a **weapon** at a big game animal while it is swimming.

3. discharge an arrow from a bow or cross-bow at big game, from, along or across a highway or road specified in Item 9 on page 18.

4. be accompanied by a dog while hunting big game or allow a dog to pursue big game except when hunting cougar under the authority of a Cougar Licence, from December 1 to the last day of February (the winter season).

5. possess the carcass of a male elk, male antelope or male non-trophy sheep unless the complete skull plate, with horns or antlers intact, is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
 - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

6. possess the carcass of a calf moose taken under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence unless its head is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
 - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

7. allow the skin of any bear or cougar to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. See exception for salvaging skin on page 32 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation.

8. remove the distinctive evidence of sex and species from the carcass of any big game until the carcass is delivered to
 - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

 In the case of grizzly bear and cougar, the evidence of sex must remain attached and be retained until the animal has been registered (page 39).

9. remove the tag from the carcass of a big game animal until authorized (as outlined on page 41).

10. hunt:
 - a black bear under the age of one year,
 - a female black bear accompanied by a cub under the age of one year,
 - a female cougar accompanied by a kitten with spotted fur, or
 - a cougar kitten with spotted fur.

11. transport big game hunters, except those requiring medical aid, or big game by helicopter over WMUs 400-446.

12. land or take off in a fixed-wing aircraft that is carrying big game, big game hunters or firearms of a calibre larger than .22 at or from any location in WMUs 400-446 except those locations where aircraft routinely land and take off.

13. hunt big game within 6 hours of having disembarked from an aircraft, except for a jet or turbo-propeller driven aircraft.

14. hunt big game on Sundays:
 - in WMUs 102 – 166,
 - in WMUs 624, 728, 730 and 936.

15. be within 50 yards of a vehicle when discharging a weapon at an antelope.

Game Bird

It is unlawful to

1. hunt game birds during an open season for male pheasants within designated pheasant release sites after 2:00 p.m., except Saturdays.

2. possess, before it has been transported to the usual residence of the person who killed it or is prepared for immediate cooking, a game bird which does not bear evidence of sex and species. Evidence of sex and species consists of one completely feathered wing attached to the carcass of the game bird, except for Merriam's turkey for which evidence of sex and species consists of the complete head and beard attached to the carcass (see page 64 for tagging instructions for Merriam's turkey).

3. hunt a migratory game bird using:
 - a firearm loaded with a single bullet,
 - shot, other than non-toxic shot,
 - a cross-bow.

4. hunt any game bird using:
 - a shotgun in which the magazine and chamber combined will hold more than three rounds of ammunition,
 - a trap, or
 - bait.

 Note: see item 12 (below) for additional restrictions for hunting Merriam's turkey.

5. have more than one shotgun, for personal use, at any time while hunting migratory game birds unless each shotgun, in excess of one, is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased.

6. hunt game birds in WMU 410 with other than a bow and arrow or falconry bird.

7. hunt game birds in WMU 212 or 248 with other than a bow and arrow, a cross-bow, shotgun or falconry bird.

8. exceed the daily or possession limit for any game bird (see game bird bag limits on page 63).

9. hunt game birds within 400 m (1/4 mi.) of a baited lure area operated under the Crop Damage Control Program.

10. transport migratory game birds belonging to others unless the carcasses are affixed with a tag showing:
 - the signature, name and address of the owner,
 - the licence number under which the bird was taken, and
 - the date the birds were taken.

11. fail to make every effort possible to immediately retrieve a migratory game bird that a person has killed or wounded. A hunter must have adequate means to retrieve any migratory bird that he or she may kill, cripple or injure.

12. hunt Merriam's turkey using:
 - a weapon other than a shotgun, cross-bow or a bow and arrow,
 - a shotgun with a bore diameter smaller than 20 gauge, or
 - shot size smaller than No. 6 shot or larger than No. 2 shot.

13. remove the tag from a Merriam's turkey until authorized (page 64).

Government of Alberta

FEDERAL FIREARMS LEGISLATION

All hunters should be aware of federal laws surrounding the acquisition, possession, transportation and use of weapons and ammunition. For further information contact your local police service or the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit the Centre's website at http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm.

LICENSING

Licence System

IBM manages the sale of all recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta. Licences are sold through private licence issuers (e.g., sporting goods stores, convenience stores and gas stations) in communities throughout Alberta. Licences can be purchased online at albertarelm.com. See page 14 for details. Licences are not sold at Fish and Wildlife Division offices.

The automated system integrates all recreational licensing services, providing better service to hunters, anglers and licence issuers. The system provides the Fish and Wildlife Division with important, up-to-date information about the hunters and anglers in the province.

To locate a licence issuer in your area of Alberta, contact the RELM (Recreational Licensing Management) Call Centre, toll-free in North America, at 1-888-944-5494, or go mywildalberta.com.

Please bring your WIN card!

Please bring your card when you purchase licences. The plastic WIN card allows the licence issuer to provide you with faster, more efficient service.

Wildlife Identification Number (WIN)

Hunters and anglers in Alberta must possess a 10-digit Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) before applying for or purchasing any licence or wildlife certificate. The WIN can be purchased for $8.00 and is valid for five years. Once your WIN expires, you can renew it at any licence issuer or online at albertarelm.com for $8.00 for another five years.

If you are purchasing a WIN for the first time, you can purchase one online at albertarelm.com or at a licence issuer. The licence issuer gives you a paper receipt (which includes your new number) allowing you to purchase licences immediately. Your plastic card will be mailed to you within a few weeks. If you have any questions about the WIN or the licensing system, please contact the RELM Call Centre, toll-free in North America, at 1-888-944-5494.

Change of Address

All hunters should ensure their address and telephone number on their licence is correct. To update your address, go online at albertarelm.com or call (toll-free in North America) 1-888-944-5494, or fill out a WIN Application form at your local licence issuer.

What is required to be eligible to hunt in Alberta?

Hunters in Alberta should be aware of federal regulations pertaining to possession and use of firearms (see Federal Firearms Legislation at the top of this page), and provincial regulations pertaining to licensing of hunters. There are regulations that pertain to first-time hunters, youths, residents, non-residents and non-resident aliens.

All hunters must have a Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) as a prerequisite to applying for, or purchasing any hunting licence, but some additional requirements must be met for the WIN-holder to be eligible to purchase hunting licences.

A person must possess a valid Wildlife Certificate and the applicable hunting licence in order to hunt big game or game birds. The hunter must carry the licence and applicable tag(s) on his or her person while hunting. A person applying for a draw is not required to possess a Wildlife Certificate but must purchase one before purchasing any hunting licence.

Licensing requirements for first-time hunters

A first-time hunter is a hunter who 1) has not previously held a hunting licence in Alberta or elsewhere, or 2) has not prior to April 1, 2010, met Alberta first-time hunter criteria, or 3) has not successfully completed a hunter education course in Alberta or elsewhere.

Buy your Licences 24/7 from Home!

Please go to albertarelm.com

- *Buy and renew your WiN*
- *Buy your sportfishing licence*



- *Buy your draw applications*
- *View your draw applications, priorities and results*
- *Buy your general hunting and special licences*

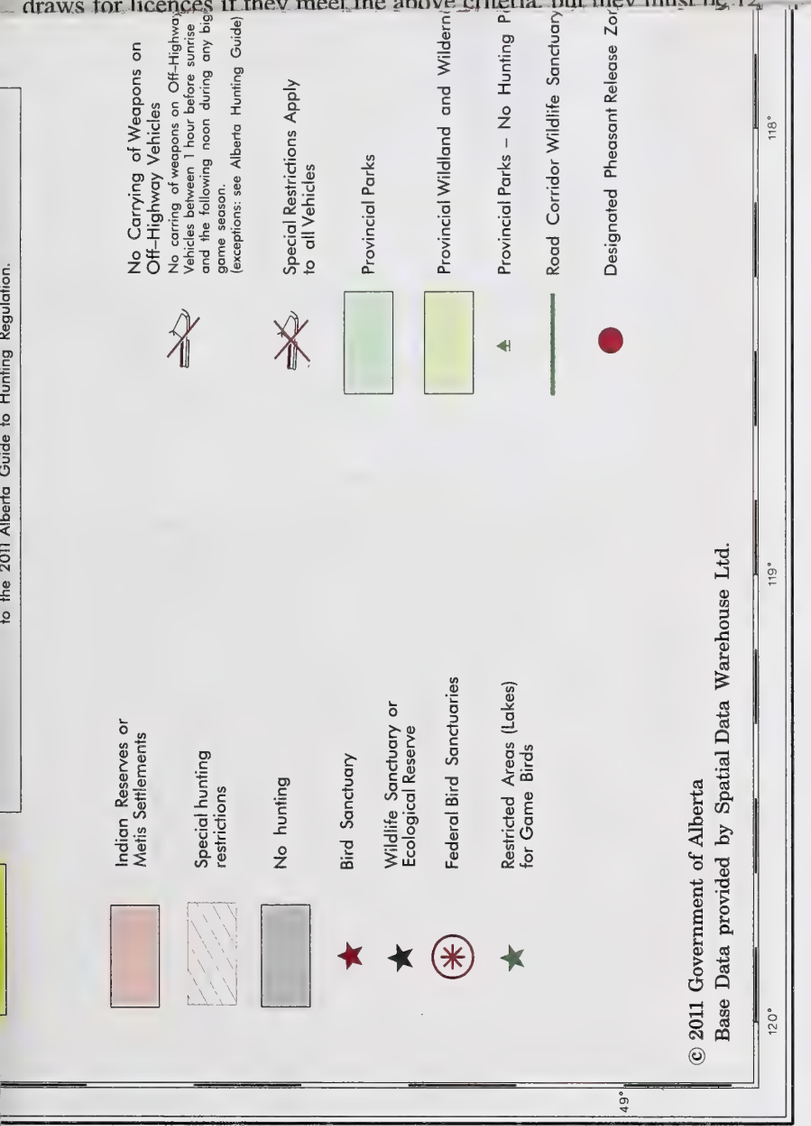
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Services provided by IBM

longer offered. Subject to any exceptions noted in this guide, first-time hunters (adult and youth) must successfully complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course.

Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters (12 years of age or older) are exempt from the first-time hunter eligibility requirement if they are accompanied by a Hunter Host or a Designated Guide while hunting in Alberta.

Youth first-time hunters must be ***at least 12 years old*** to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta. All hunters ***under the age of 16 years*** must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. Hunters who are ***11 years old*** may apply in the draws for licences if they meet the above criteria, but they must be 12



to the 2011 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulation.

Accessing Agricultural Leased Land

Before entering onto leased land, you must contact the leaseholder. Detailed maps, leaseholder contact information and access conditions for leased land are available on the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Website: srd.alberta.ca/accessagpublicland or by calling **1-866-279-0023**.

With penalties for recreational users ranging up to $500, failing to follow these guidelines can be costly.

Leaseholders must allow reasonable access. Access may be denied if:

- You are not on foot
- Livestock is present in a fenced pasture
- A crop has not yet been harvested
- A fire ban is in effect
- You wish to hunt in an area near livestock
- You wish to camp

When on agricultural public land, please be courteous and remember to:

- Pack out all litter
- Park vehicles so they do not block access to the land
- Ask permission before lighting a fire
- Leave gates as you find them – open or closed
- Use care not to damage the land or any property

Access to Provincial Grazing Reserves

Recreationists are welcome on grazing reserves but are reminded that use of these areas may be restricted during certain times of the year. For information about seasonal or other restrictions on provincial grazing reserves, contact the regional grazing office or visit srd.alberta.ca.

When visiting grazing reserves, please note:

- All motorized vehicles are required to stay on roads or trails
- Gates must be left as they are found
- Organized recreational groups require a letter of authority from the regional reserve office to use grazing reserves
- Camping is prohibited unless authorized by the regional reserve office.



For more information on any of our programs contact us at:

Calgary
911 Sylvester Cr. SW
Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
Phone: (403) 252-8474
Fax: (403) 252-3770
Email: info@aheia.com
Toll Free: 1-866-852-4342

Edmonton
#88, 4003 - 98 Street
Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Phone: (780) 466-6682
Fax: (780) 431-2871
Email: edmontoninfo@aheia.com
Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342

Web Site: www.aheia.com

Notice: As of 2010, the Alberta Hunter Competency Exam is no longer offered. Subject to any exceptions noted in this guide, first-time hunters (adult and youth) must successfully complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course.

Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters (12 years of age or older) are exempt from the first-time hunter eligibility requirement if they are accompanied by a Hunter Host or a Designated Guide while hunting in Alberta.

Youth first-time hunters must be ***at least 12 years old*** to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta. All hunters ***under the age of 16 years*** must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. Hunters who are ***11 years old*** may apply in the draws for licences if they meet the above criteria, but they must be 12 years old anytime before or during the open season for that draw. They may not hunt until they are ***12 years old***. **Note: As of 2007, hunters who are 12 or 13 years of age are no longer restricted to hunting big game with only a bow and arrow.** To hunt with a firearm, hunters ***under 18 years of age*** must be accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

If you are interested in taking the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, call the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association toll-free in Alberta at 1-866-852-4342, Edmonton 780-466-6682, or Calgary 403-252-8474.

Government of Alberta

Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association



Presenting Conservation and Hunter Education to Albertans

Programs available:

- **Alberta Conservation & Hunter Education**
- **Alberta Fishing Education**
- **Outdoor Camp Programs**
- **1st Time Hunter Certification & Programs**
- **Canadian Firearms Safety Courses & Challenges**
- **Outdoor Woman's Seminars**
- **Outdoor Youth Seminars**
- **Wildlife Seminars**
- **Fishing Seminars**

For more information on any of our programs contact us at:

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Email: edmontoninfo@aheia.com
Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342

Web Site: www.aheia.com

Accessing Agricultural Leased Land

Before entering onto leased land, you must contact the leaseholder. Detailed maps, leaseholder contact information and access conditions for leased land are available on the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Website: srd.alberta.ca/accessagpublicland or by calling **1-866-279-0023.**

With penalties for recreational users ranging up to $500, failing to follow these guidelines can be costly.

Leaseholders must allow reasonable access. Access may be denied if:

- You are not on foot
- Livestock is present in a fenced pasture
- A crop has not yet been harvested
- A fire ban is in effect
- You wish to hunt in an area near livestock
- You wish to camp

When on agricultural public land, please be courteous and remember to:

- Pack out all litter
- Park vehicles so they do not block access to the land
- Ask permission before lighting a fire
- Leave gates as you find them – open or closed
- Use care not to damage the land or any property

Access to Provincial Grazing Reserves

Recreationists are welcome on grazing reserves but are reminded that use of these areas may be restricted during certain times of the year. For information about seasonal or other restrictions on provincial grazing reserves, contact the regional grazing office or visit **srd.alberta.ca.**

When visiting grazing reserves, please note:

- All motorized vehicles are required to stay on roads or trails
- Gates must be left as they are found
- Organized recreational groups require a letter of authority from the regional reserve office to use grazing reserves
- Camping is prohibited unless authorized by the regional reserve office.



Resident Youth Hunting Licences

Subject to the age limitations and conditions above, a resident 12 to 17 years of age may purchase a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for $8.30. The holder of a valid Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate who has not yet attained the age of 18 years may also purchase a Youth White-tailed Deer Licence and a Youth Mule Deer Licence, each for $8.25. **These licences are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the Special Licences obtained through a draw**. This person may also purchase an Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (available through a draw, see Draws for Special Licences, below) for $8.00. Partner Licences are also available to resident youths if designated by the holder of any special licence. See this page.

Where Your Money Goes

A portion of the price of each **hunting licence** is a levy established by the Alberta Conservation Association to help finance wildlife rehabilitation programs, the enhancement of other wildlife management programs and the Report A Poacher Program. Another portion goes to General Revenue and the remainder is a transaction fee that goes to IBM to finance the administration of the licensing system. This system collects valuable information about the use of our wildlife resource. The government uses this data for setting season dates, licence quotas and other regulations. For complete information on fee break down, contact Licensing, Revenue and Resource Data Management at (780) 427-5185.

Mobility-impaired Hunters

Eligible individuals may obtain a special permit or licence relating to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, discharging a weapon from an OHV and cross-bow use during archery only seasons. Contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16) for more information.

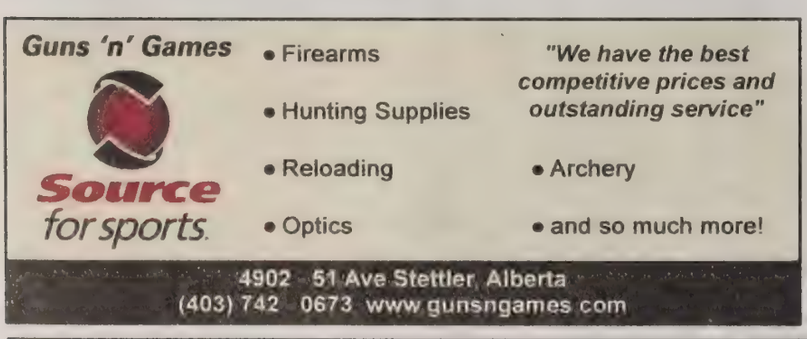
Mandatory Suspended Hunter Testing

A person whose right to hold a recreational hunting licence has been suspended in Alberta as a result of a conviction is required to pass a hunter-competency test before obtaining another recreational hunting licence. This test, which differs from the test given to first-time hunters, must be taken after the beginning of the suspension period. Mandatory hunter testing is intended to increase outdoor safety, awareness, skills and efficiency and to develop responsible attitudes in the field. Dates and times for testing are available at Fish and Wildlife Division offices (page 16).

Draws for Special Licences

When demand for hunting opportunities becomes excessive, season length and bag limits are often insufficient to conserve a game resource or to ensure a quality hunting experience. In such cases, the Fish and Wildlife Division conducts lotteries or draws among eligible applicants for a limited number of special licences. Special licences allow successful applicants to hunt a specific type of game (e.g., antlerless elk) in defined areas during a specified season.

Only residents and, to a lesser extent, non-residents (Canadian) are eligible to apply in these draws. A non-refundable $3.65 (plus GST) levy is charged for each application or group of applicants (maximum of four) for the same draw. This levy goes to the Alberta Conservation Association for programs. Although draws are used for specific wildlife management purposes (e.g., the goal in antlered mule deer draw areas is to develop a more balanced age structure in the herd by controlling the kill of bucks), other benefits include improved hunter success, increased opportunity to harvest a trophy animal, a more pleasant hunting experience with lower hunter densities, reduced disturbance of landowners, and a better distribution of the harvest.



Draw Application Deadline Dates — Hunters interested in special licence hunts for fall 2011 must have applied by June 23. Refer to the *2011 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for more information on draws.

Hunters interested in the draw seasons for 2012 should obtain the *2012 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet and apply during the month of June 2012. Copies are available at licence issuers, your local Fish and Wildlife Division office or online at mywildalberta.com or albertaregulations.ca.

Draw Results — Beginning July 14, draw results are available online at albertarelm.com. July 21 – August 17 draw results are available by telephone **1-900-451-DRAW** *($0.75 for each minute)*. You need a touch-tone telephone and your WIN. Written notification of your draw results are sent in the mail to applicants who do not have an email address. Results for antelope and goat draws are available August 11.

For information on the Draws for Special Licences, call 1-877-289-0999, toll-free.

Landowner Special Licence

A person who qualifies may be eligible to obtain a special licence after having been unsuccessful in some draws. Availability of Landowner Special Licences may be limited or not available at all for some species in certain WMUs. Those available will be issued to eligible persons on a first-come, first-served basis. For details on eligibility and the application process, please consult the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet.

Partner Licence

The following Partner Licences are available:

1. A resident holder of an **Antlerless Moose** Special Licence or a **Bison** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible resident hunter (adult or youth) to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence, or a Special Bison Partner Licence.

2. A resident holder of an **Antlered Moose** Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible hunter, either a resident (adult or youth) or a non-resident (Canadian) (adult or youth), to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence. To qualify for a Partner Licence in a particular WMU, the non-resident (Canadian) must have been eligible to apply for the Special Licence in that WMU.
A non-resident (Canadian) holder of an Antlered Moose Special Licence obtained through the draw process has the option of designating one eligible resident (adult or youth) hunter to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence.

3. Resident hunters successful in drawing a Special Licence in any of the other Draws may designate one eligible resident youth (12 to 17 years of age) to be a partner on their Special Licence.

Rules for all Partners – A designated partner does not need any priority to qualify for a partner licence, does not need to have applied on the draw, and the purchase of the partner licence will not affect any existing priority of the partner. The intended partner must be eligible to hold a hunting licence. Refer to pages 24-27 regarding licence combinations and restrictions. The primary licensee may designate a partner at any time until the end of the season for which the Special Licence is valid. The designated partner hunts under the authority of the special licence and must be in direct communication (not including the use of any electronic devices) with the

primary special licence holder while hunting to ensure that both stop hunting once the tag(s) are filled. The two hunters hunt as one.
The primary licensee must carry the tag(s) issued with the special licence and must tag the animal as soon as there is a kill. The primary licensee may hunt without the partner, but not vice versa.

To Designate a Partner – The Partner Licence is available online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuer. The intended partner must provide the number of the Special Licence held by the primary hunter along with his or her own WIN. The Special Licence number authorizes the licensing system to issue a partner licence that is linked to the Special Licence. The intended partner may then purchase a Wildlife Certificate and the appropriate Partner Licence. If the intended partner is a non-resident, he/she must be accompanied by a licensed Hunter Host while hunting. The Partner Licence is valid for the same WMU and season as the Special Licence. No tag is issued with the Partner Licence.

Outfitting and Guiding Requirements for Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens

(see Definitions on page 15).

There is no requirement for non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien game bird hunters to contract their **game bird** hunts through a Bird Game Outfitter-guide. However, those who do choose to hire an outfitter-guide for such a hunt must do so through the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit.

In this section, the term "accompany" or "accompanied" means that the persons involved are close enough to each other to easily facilitate verbal communications without the need for electronic devices. **It is acceptable, however, for the hunter to be placed in a stand location by the guide or hunter host, if they remain at that same location to be picked up later the same day.**

Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien hunters of **big game, wolf and coyote must be accompanied by a licensed guide or a Hunter Host.** Each of these hunters has two options:

1) he or she may contract the holder of a valid Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit, be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide, and hunt under the authority of a licence allocated to an outfitter-guide (for information on outfitter-guides, contact the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society at apos.ab.ca), **OR**
2) he or she may be hosted by a Hunter Host (see this page) – usually a relative or friend – and hunt according to the following restrictions and conditions:
 - Non-resident Aliens may hunt with any Hunter Host only if they have not done so in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 - March 31).
 - Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens are limited to certain licences, as indicated in the Licence Availability sections on pages 26 to 27.
 - Non-resident Aliens hosted by Hunter Hosts may hunt big game only during seasons that do not require one of the special licences, obtained through a draw, indicated by a ■ in the season tables on pages 46 to 60 or listed under Additional Special Licence Draw Hunts on page 61.
 - A Non-resident Alien and his or her intended Hunter Host must apply at a Fish and Wildlife Division office for their licences and make a statutory declaration that he or she understands the terms and conditions of the licences (see Hunter Host Licence on this page).
 - A Non-resident Alien must not hunt bighorn sheep, cougar or trophy antelope while accompanied by a Hunter Host.
 - **Further Restrictions for Non-resident Aliens Who are Not Relatives of the Hunter Host or the Hunter Host's Spouse**
 - Relatives are defined as father, brother, son, uncle, nephew, grandfather, grandson, son-in-law, brother-in-law (and female equivalents) of the Hunter Host or spouse of the Hunter Host.
 - The Non-resident Alien and intended Hunter Host, if not related, must initiate an application at a Fish and Wildlife Division office for their licences, described above, by **August 31** of the licence year, or by the following **February 28** for the spring black bear hunt.
 - The Non-resident Alien may apply to hunt only two (2) species of big game.

A Hunter Host

- Must be an adult resident, and be eligible to hold recreational hunting licences.
- Must be the holder of a valid WIN and Hunter Host Licence (below).
- **may not provide services for gain or reward, or accept remuneration, directly or indirectly, for such services.**
- may host a maximum of two (2) hunters/year, either Non-residents (Canadian), Non-resident Aliens or a combination thereof. If hosting 2 Non-resident Aliens, at least 1 must be a relative.
- may host Non-resident Aliens only if the host has not hosted a Non-resident Alien in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 to March 31).
- **must report to the Fish and Wildlife Division by December 31 in the year of harvest all hunting activities by the Non-resident Aliens he or she hosted. A report must be submitted even if the hunter doesn't harvest an animal.**
- must accompany the hunter(s) named on his or her Hunter Host Licence while they are hunting big game under the authority of the Hunter Host Licence.

Hunter Host Licence

A resident who wishes to be a Hunter Host may purchase a Hunter Host Licence online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuer. You must have the WIN(s) of the non-resident(s) at the time of purchase. You **must** ensure that the hunters you host are named on your Hunter Host Licence. If you purchase your Hunter Host Licence naming one hunter and you decide to add a second hunter to your licence at a later date, you can do so at no additional charge. Return to albertarelm.com or to a licence issuer to have your licence amended. Once you have purchased your Hunter Host Licence, the hunters may purchase their licences.

A Hunter Host who plans to take a **non-resident alien** hunting must do the following:

1. Go to a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 16) in person and initiate an application (including statutory declaration). Sign it and have your signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien is not a relative, you must start this process by August 31 or February 28 as described above.
2. Have the Non-resident Alien sign the application and have his or her signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien does not have a WIN, have him fill out a WIN application at the same time.
3. Take the completed application to a Fish and Wildlife Division office. The application will be reviewed for final approval and keyed into the automated licensing system.
4. When you are notified that your application is approved, go online at albertarelm.com or to any licence issuer and purchase your Hunter Host Licence (see above) and the appropriate Wildlife Certificate and licences.

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Resident Licence Costs and Combinations

Government of Alberta

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 20) and a Wildlife Certificate which costs $28.22 (or $8.30 for a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, page 22). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price ($)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	36.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 2 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of the last 3 licences.	A Resident Adult or Youth may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 25, but not more than 1 licence from this list for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	36.65		
Youth White-tailed Deer[6]	8.25		
Special Antlered White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Mule Deer	36.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 2 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of the last 3 licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	36.65		
Youth Mule Deer[6]	8.25		
Special Antlered Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Elk	34.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 10 licences.	
WMU 300 Elk Special Licence	34.65		
Either Sex Elk Special Licence	34.65		
Cypress Hills Elk Archery[1]	34.65		
Antlerless Elk Special Licence	34.65		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	34.65		
Special WMU 300 Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Either Sex Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Antlered Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Moose	36.95	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 7 licences.	
Antlerless Moose Special Licence	36.65		
Antlered Moose Special Licence	36.85		
Calf Moose Special Licence	36.65		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	12.00		
Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence	12.00		
Special Calf Moose Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Trophy Sheep	51.31	A Resident who killed a sheep, except a legal non-trophy sheep, in 2010 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Licence in 2011.	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 6 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 11 licences.
WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	51.31		
WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	51.31		
WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	51.31		
WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	51.31		
WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	51.31		
Special WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special WMU 438 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special WMU 444/446 Trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		

continued on next page

Licence	Price ($)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence	27.40	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Resident Adult may obtain 1 of each of these 17 licences (excluding the Youth licences). A Resident Youth may obtain 16 different licences from this list of 23, but not more than 1 licence from this list for any one species.
Special Non-trophy Sheep Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence	18.70	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Antlerless White-tailed Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer[2]	19.15		
Strathcona White-tailed Deer	18.70		
Foothills Deer[3]	18.70		
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (issued to a youth)	21.20 (8.00)	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Antlerless Mule Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Supplemental Antlerless Mule Deer[7]	19.00		
Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 248)	10.70		
Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence	37.99	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Camp Wainwright Deer Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery	18.95		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence	34.65	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Black Bear	15.65		
Supplemental Black Bear[4]	15.45		
Cougar	20.31		
Goat Special Licence[5]	51.11	A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Goat Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Bison Special Licence	50.00	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Special Bison Partner Licence	12.00		
Antelope Archery Special Licence	51.31	None	A Resident Adult may obtain only 1 of the first 3 licences. A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 6 licences.
Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence	19.35		
Trophy Antelope Special Licence	51.31		
Special Antelope Archery Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Non-trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Special Trophy Antelope Partner Licence (Youth)	12.00		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	9.20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hunter Host Licence	27.00		
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint[8]	2.00		
Tag Reprint[9]	4.00		
Replacement WIN Card	4.00		

1 This licence is only valid during the Cypress Hills Elk Archery Licence season, Sept. 1 - Oct. 15; WMU 116, 118 and 119.

2 This licence will be issued with two tags and is only valid in the following WMUs: 200-208, 214-238, 244, 246, 254-258, 300, 310-314, 322-357, 360, 436-446, 500-503, 505, 507-531, 534-544.

3 When hunting under the authority of this licence, valid in WMU 212 only, hunters must carry written permission to hunt from a landowner involved.

4 This licence is only valid in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.

5 As of 2002, drawn applicants cannot reapply in future years (once-in-a-lifetime opportunity).

6 These licences are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the special licences obtained through a draw.

Special Licences (listed above) are available only through draws which occurred in June of this year.

Please refer to the *2012 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet in June 2012 for information on how to apply in these draws next year.

Footnotes continued on next page

7 This licence will be issued with 2 tags. It is valid in WMUs 200, 234, 236, 256 and 500.

8 Licences purchased at a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $2.00 fee. Licences purchased online can be reprinted online at no charge.

9 Tags issued by a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $4.00 fee. A replacement tag(s) for a licence purchased online can be replaced at no charge. You are required to bring your licence to a district office. In both cases you must complete a statutory declaration to authorize the replacement at a Fish and Wildlife District office (See page 16).

Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability

All Non-resident hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require a Big Game Designated Guide or a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 23.

Non-residents who hunt with a Hunter Host may obtain White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear, Supplemental Black Bear, Cougar, and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) from private licence issuers or online at albertarelm.com. Some special licences may be obtained through the draw system that are described in the *2011 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet which was made available in June 2011.

Non-residents contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter-guide may obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-residents using the services of an outfitter-guide must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide. These licences are only available at licence issuers.

Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 20) and a Wildlife Certificate, which costs $28.22. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

All **special** licences shown in the following table are available through a Big Game Outfitter-guide. Some are also available through the draw system.

Licence	Price ($)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	122.33	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 9, but not more than 1 licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence[1]	122.33		
Antlered Mule Deer	122.33	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence[1]	122.33		
Antlered Elk	135.31	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence[1]	135.31		
Antlered Moose	135.31	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence[1]	135.31		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	44.00		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence[1,2]	317.82	A Non-resident who killed a sheep in 2010 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2011.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 3.
Wolf/Coyote	12.40	See page 59 for dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence[3]	182.45	None	
Black Bear Licence	63.61	A Non-resident accompanied by a Hunter Host may obtain both of these licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 2. However, Non-residents purchasing 1 of these two licences may not purchase a Black Bear Special Licence.
Supplemental Black Bear Licence[4]	63.61		
Black Bear Special Licence[5]	63.61	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	Non-residents purchasing this licence may not purchase a Black Bear Licence or a Supplemental Black Bear Licence.
Cougar	135.31	Non-residents hunting with a Hunter Host.	1 licence only from this list of 2.
Cougar Special Licence	135.31	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	16.45	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint[6]	2.00		
Tag Reprint[7]	4.00		
Replacement WIN card	4.00		

Footnotes continued on next page

1 These licences are available through the draw system or through an outfitter-guide. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 26) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 23).

2 Non-resident Trophy Sheep Special Licences are available through Class S Outfitter-guides or through a draw. Only 2 licences are available through a draw, and each hunter successful in the draw must be accompanied by a Hunter Host.

3 Non-resident Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available through an outfitter-guide or through a draw. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 26) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 23).

4 This licence is valid only in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841. Please see page 60 for more information.

5 These licences are valid for 2 black bears if the Outfitter-Guide's allocation is valid for a WMU where the Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid (i.e., 2-bear areas).

6 Licences purchased at a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $2.00 fee. Licences purchased online can be reprinted online at no charge.

7 Tags issued by a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $4.00 fee. A replacement tag(s) for a licence purchased online can be replaced at no charge. You are required to bring your licence to a district office. In both cases you must complete a statutory declaration to authorize the replacement at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (See page 16).

Non-resident Alien Licence Availability

All Non-resident Alien hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require either a Big Game Designated Guide **or** a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 23.

Non-resident Aliens who hunt with a Hunter Host may obtain Antlered White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear Special Licences and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) online at albertarelm.com or at any licence issuers. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 23 for a summary of the circumstances under which these licences may be used and the limitations that apply.

Non-resident Aliens contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter-guide must obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-resident Aliens using the services of an outfitter-guide must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide. These licences are only available at licence issuers.

Non-resident Alien Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 20) and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, which costs $68.22. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price ($)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	188.57[1]	None	A Non-resident Alien may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 9.
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	188.57[1]		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	254.97[1]		
Antlered Moose Special Licence	254.97[1]		
Black Bear Special Licence[2]	79.62[1]		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence[3]	317.82[1]	A Non-resident Alien who killed a sheep in 2010 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2011.	
Cougar Special Licence[3]	254.97[1]	None	
Wolf/Coyote Licence	12.40[1]	See page 59 for wolf and coyote season dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence[3]	229.47[1]	None	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	23.20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint[4]	2.00		
Tag Reprint[5]	4.00		

1 If purchased through an outfitter-guide or the Alberta Professional Outfitter Society, an additional service fee is charged.

2 This licence is valid for 2 black bears where the Resident and Non-resident (Canadian) Supplemental Black Bear Licences are valid (2-bear areas).

3 Trophy Sheep, Cougar and Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available to Non-resident Aliens only through an outfitter-guide.

4 Licences purchased at a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $2.00 fee. Licences purchased online can be reprinted online at no charge.

5 Tags issued by a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $4.00 fee. A replacement tag(s) for a licence purchased online can be replaced at no charge. You are required to bring your licence to a district office. In both cases you must complete a statutory declaration to authorize the replacement at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (See page 16).

GAME BIRD LICENCES

Resident game bird hunters require a WIN card and a Wildlife Certificate and:

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl;
- a Merriam's Turkey Special Licence and a Game Bird Licence to hunt Merriam's turkey.
 (NOTE: Merriam's Turkey Special Licences are available only through a draw. See page 64 for more information.)

Non-resident (Canadian) game bird hunters require a WIN card and a Wildlife Certificate and:

- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence, and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence, and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

Non-resident Alien game bird hunters require a WIN card and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate and:

- an Upland Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- an Upland Game Bird and Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a 6-Day Waterfowl Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

NOTE: The 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.
Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 20) and a Wildlife Certificate. The Wildlife Certificate costs $28.22 or $68.22 for a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate or $8.30 for a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate (see page 22). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit.

Licence Costs

Game Bird Licence	Price ($)		
	Resident	Non-resident (Canadian)	Non-resident Alien
Game Bird	10.80	31.96	Not Applicable
Upland Game Bird	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	78.50
6-Day Waterfowl[4]	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	78.50
3-Day Game Bird[4]	Not Applicable	22.45	Not Applicable
Pheasant	15.38	22.62	22.62
Merriam's Turkey Special Licence[1,2]	25.81	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Special Merriam's Turkey Partner Licence (Youth)[1]	12.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bowhunting Permit	9.20	16.45	23.20
WIN Renewal	8.00	8.00	8.00
Licence Reprint[5]	2.00	2.00	2.00
Tag Reprint[6]	4.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit[3]	17.00	17.00	17.00

1 A Resident Youth may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.
2 Available only through a draw, page 64.
3 Available at Post Offices and certain private licence issuers. See *MyWildAlberta.com*.
4 A hunter may purchase more than 1 of these licences.
5 Licences purchased at a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $2.00 fee. Licences purchased online can be reprinted online at no charge.
6 Tags issued by a licence issuer can be reprinted at any licence issuer for a $4.00 fee. A replacement tag(s) for a licence purchased online can be replaced at no charge. You are required to bring your licence to a district office. In both cases you must complete a statutory declaration to authorize the replacement at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (See page 16).





Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Alberta

Wildlife managers across North America agree that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the most significant disease concern facing big game populations across the continent. Mule deer and white-tailed deer seem to be at greatest risk. The disease continues to expand both geographically and numerically in all affected areas. In Alberta, the disease is becoming established in two major watersheds: the Battle River/Ribstone Creek, and the South Saskatchewan/Red Deer rivers.

CWD destroys the brain of mule deer and white-tailed deer and results in premature death of all infected individuals. Local deer populations in Colorado and Wyoming, where the disease has existed for decades, are now displaying dramatic population declines, with up to 50% mortality and significantly lower birth rate over the last 10 years. The declines are attributed directly to the effects of CWD. Infected populations have shifted towards younger deer, reduced productivity, and fewer trophy males.

In 2010, Alberta detected CWD in 20 deer, primarily older mule deer males. There were two particularly significant results – the disease appears to be moving westward quite quickly along the Red Deer River valley (as far west as Dinosaur Provincial Park), and we documented the first case on a direct tributary of the North Saskatchewan River (on the west side of WMU 256). Other cases detected in 2010 indicate the disease is spreading locally in most affected areas.

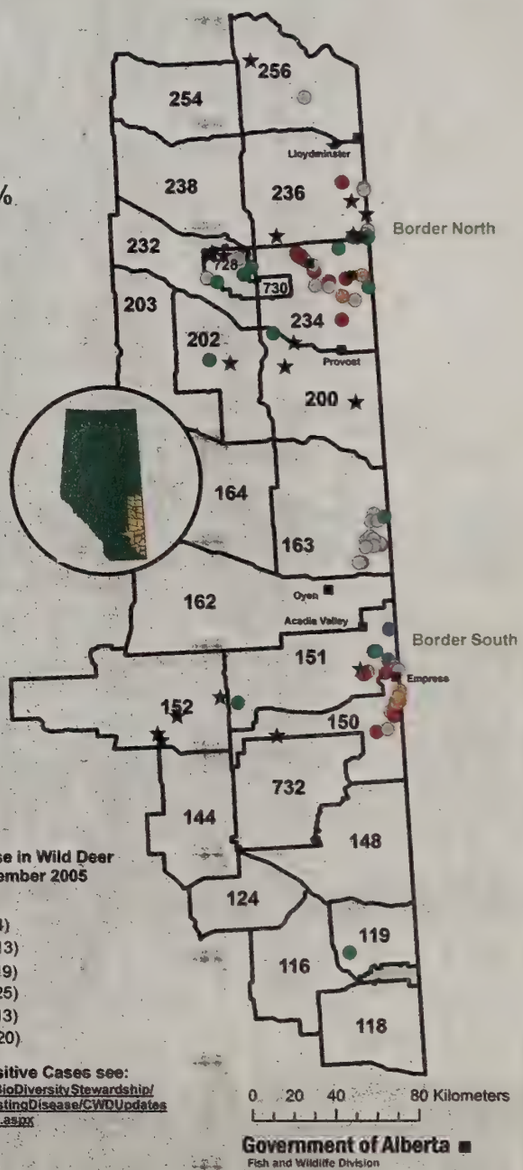
Since the first case in September 2005, CWD was detected in 94 wild deer along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border in **WMUs 119, 150, 151, 152, 163, 200, 202, 232, 234, 236, 256, and 728 (see map).**

The ongoing surveillance program continues to document the numerical and geographic extent of infection in wild deer; however, compliance with the mandatory head submission from CWD risk areas remains low. **In 2010, approximately 50% of the mule deer and 40% of the white-tails harvested in the primary CWD risk areas were submitted for the surveillance program. The lack of submissions seriously undermines our ability to track the occurrence and extent of the disease. Without this information big game managers are unable to fully understand the potential effects, and hunters who are concerned about CWD cannot make fully informed decisions about their hunt.**

The public, and hunters and outfitters in particular, play an important role in CWD surveillance. Deer heads submitted for testing, and reports of emaciated deer, help define the area where the disease occurs. Hunters who take advantage of increased hunting opportunities help reduce the number of deer in the CWD Risk Areas and reduce the opportunity for disease transmission. Landowners also are key to successful deer management by allowing access for recreational hunting and by harvesting deer on their own lands. The cooperation and assistance of all stakeholders and interested parties is important and greatly appreciated.

All heads submitted for CWD testing must have a green CWD label attached and must contain complete information about the deer and the hunter. In addition, **the precise location of each kill is required, either GPS or Sec/Twp/Rge/Mer, in addition to WMU.** After you shoot your deer, pick up CWD labels from any Fish and Wildlife office or from 24-hr freezers in CWD Risk Areas during fall rifle seasons. Fill out **both sides of the label and be sure to include the kill location as well as your WIN number.** CWD results are reported online to each hunter at www.albertarelm.com/wc.user.Login.page .

Hunting opportunities for white-tails and mule deer are abundant in the CWD risk areas. For more information on hunting opportunities check the appropriate pages of this guide for details regarding the border WMUs.



For more information about CWD contact your local Fish and Wildlife Office or visit: **srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/WildlifeDiseases/**

EXPORTING

Alberta Export Permit

All big game, game birds, and furbearing animals require a provincial export permit (**$20.00 plus GST**) when they are to be conveyed beyond the borders of Alberta, except under the following conditions:

1. Hunters who lawfully harvest game birds, coyotes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, pronghorn antelope or black bear* under the authority of a hunting licence or a right that is protected under Canadian Constitution, may export those species without an Alberta export permit if

 - in the case of upland game birds, the bird has been processed as a mounted specimen, or
 - the export occurs within 30 days of the date the animal was killed or within 5 days of the close of the season, whichever occurs first, and
 - the shipment is accompanied by the hunter who killed the animal, and
 - the appropriate licence is carried by the hunter who killed the animal being exported.

 * Alberta prohibits the export of gall bladder and paws of black bear. You may export red meat, hide with claws attached, head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. See CITES Export Permit at right.

2. Coyote that have been lawfully hunted by residents do not require a provincial export permit.

Note: United States migratory bird hunting regulations state that it is unlawful for a person to import into the United States migratory game birds belonging to another person. Evidence of sex and species must remain attached to the bird until the final U.S. destination is reached. For further information on the export of wildlife, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16).

Commercial Export of Wildlife to the U.S.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) regulates commercial shipments of wildlife that enter or leave the U.S. In particular, taxidermists and outfitter-guides may experience difficulties transporting wildlife to the U.S. unless such businesses are licenced with the US FWS for transporting commercial shipments of wildlife across the U.S. border.

For more details, contact the US FWS at 1-800-344-9453 or view information at:
http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm

CITES Export Permit - for more information (1-800-668-6767)

Persons exporting cougar, grizzly bear or wolf to points outside Canada must obtain a federal export permit issued in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). In addition, provincial export permits must be obtained for exporting these species, except for tanned wolf skin. All black bear require CITES export permits, except for those exported by United States hunters as noted on this page. Black bears do not require the provincial export permit if they are exported as described in the Alberta Export Permit section.

U.S. Black Bear Hunters – A CITES export permit is no longer required for U.S. hunters to take their black bear hunting trophy home in a fresh, frozen or salted condition at the conclusion of their hunt. The trophy must be part of the accompanying baggage of the hunter who killed the animal. This exemption does not apply to taxidermized trophies. All provincial export requirements still apply (see Alberta Export Permit section) and the trophy and documentation must be presented to Customs at the border when the hunters exit. Only the following parts of black bear may be exported: red meat, the hide with claws still attached, the head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. Alberta prohibits the export of the gall bladder or paws of black bear. Note that the CITES permit exemption for fresh black bear trophies applies only to U.S. hunters returning home and not to other hunters. An individual must not sell or dispose of the black bear within 90 days after the date on which the CITES exemption is claimed.

Other circumstances for Black Bear: Claws of black bear may not be exported from Alberta if they are separated from the whole skin. Partial skins of black bear that are processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved), black bear skulls with teeth attached (when not accompanied by the hunter returning home as described above) or taxidermized black bear skins may still be exported but only under a provincial export permit with a CITES permit. A black bear skin that is not part of a returning hunter's baggage may still be shipped but requires both provincial and CITES export permits.

SALE OF WILDLIFE

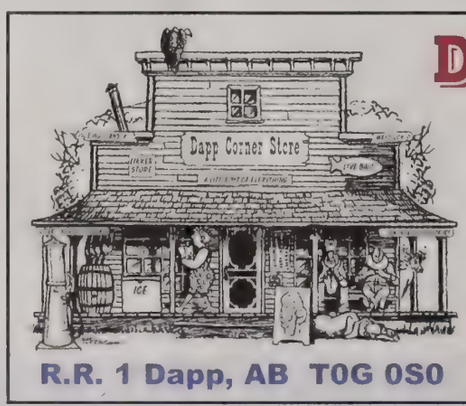
The selling, buying, bartering, soliciting or trading in wildlife or wildlife parts, or offering to do so, is regulated under the *Wildlife Act* and Regulations. Many transactions are strictly prohibited, while others are regulated. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16).

When conducting wildlife transactions over the internet, recognize that wildlife laws vary in many jurisdictions; wildlife (such as a naturally shed antler) that is legal to sell within Alberta may not be legal to sell to persons in the U.S.

FOUND DEAD WILDLIFE

When driving or walking, hunters often find dead wildlife that they would like to keep. In most cases it is unlawful to possess such wildlife or parts of wildlife without first obtaining a permit. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office to apply for such a permit before taking possession of the wildlife.





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Athabasca Outdoor Products Ltd. – Athabasca	780-675-7009	Northgate Honda & Leisure Products – Grande Prairie	780-532-8010	R. Johansen Sales Ltd. – Ponoka	403-783-5185
Barrhead Motorsports Ltd. – Barrhead	780-674-4600	Rentco Equipment – Grande Prairie	780-539-7860	Turple Bros Ltd. – Red Deer	403-346-5288
Gaudins Honda – Beaver Lodge	780-354-8132	High Level Honda – High Level	780-926-2291	Glenn's Sports Line – Rocky Mountain House	403-845-6906
All Season Cycle – Brooks	403-362-8100	The Honda Shop – High Prairie	780-523-3904	Grizzly Ridge Honda – Slave Lake	780-849-3514
Rocky Mountain Honda Powerhouse – Calgary	403-230-7777	High River Rentals Inc. – High River	403-652-4445	Riverside Honda – St. Albert	780-458-7227
Camrose Motorsports – Camrose	780-672-4095	Lac La Biche Sporting Goods Ltd. – Lac La Biche	780-623-4145	Power Merchants – St. Paul	780-645-4499
Riders Connection – Cold Lake	780-594-7433	Lethbridge Honda Centre Ltd. – Lethbridge	403-327-2777	Trochu Motors Ltd. – Trochu	403-442-3866
Honda Extreme – Edmonton	780-435-0742	Lloydminster Honda – Lloydminster	780-875-8355	Rob B's Sports & Industrial Equipment – Valleyview	780-524-3616
Scona Cycle Honda – Edmonton	780-432-0858	Medicine Hat Moto-Sports – Medicine Hat	403-527-5116	Ireland Farm Equipment Ltd. – Vermilion	780-853-4013
Gateway Honda – Edson	780-723-6601	Trackside Sales & Service Ltd. – Olds	403-556-6588	Wetaskiwin Motorsports – Wetaskiwin	780-352-5408
Cycle West Ltd. – Fairview	780-835-4202	Peace Country Honda – Peace River	780-624-4646		

Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing, and please respect the environment when riding. Obey the law and read your owner's manual thoroughly. Honda recommends taking an ATV rider training course. Recommended only for riders 16 years of age and older. Always wear protective clothing when operating your Honda generator and read your owner's manual thoroughly before operating your Honda generator. Model images and specifications subject to change without notice. *At 25% load.

HUNTING PRIVILEGES ON OCCUPIED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

Access to Public and Private Lands

Except under authority of a Game Bird Shooting Ground Licence, it is unlawful to directly or indirectly buy or sell, trade or barter, or offer to buy or sell access to any land for the purpose of hunting any big game, furbearing animals or game birds.

Hunting on privately owned lands without permission is a problem in Alberta. It generates anti-hunting sentiment among landowners and results in the prosecution of more than 200 hunters each year. They should leave gates as they find them, avoid damaging facilities or property, avoid disturbing livestock and establish friendly relations with landholders.

NOTE: Important changes to the *Petty Trespass Act* took effect in 2004. See this page.

Although there is a moral obligation to pursue wounded game and a legal requirement to ensure game is retrieved and not wasted or abandoned, these obligations do not override the legal requirement to get permission to enter private land.

Access to Public Lands

Hunters are reminded that the privilege to access public lands is contingent upon courtesy and responsible conduct. It is the hunter's responsibility to know, understand and abide by access conditions that apply when using and enjoying these areas.

In addition to privately owned land, permission is always required before entering or crossing:

- Indian reserves (from appropriate band council),
- Métis settlements (from appropriate Métis settlement association)
- Public land under agricultural or grazing lease (from leaseholder), please see advertisement on page 21.

While recreational 'foot' access is generally accepted on public land, hunters should be aware that:

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) access is prohibited in most provincial parks and provincial recreation areas.
- Off-highway vehicle access may be limited or prohibited within counties, municipal districts or within special public land management areas such as Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZs).
- Some FLUZs have designated OHV trail networks (i.e. Ghost Fluz). In these areas, hunters are required to operate OHVs only on designated trails, even when retrieving game.
- Special conditions, such as extreme fire hazard, may warrant additional temporary access limitations.

Regardless of intent or mode of travel, all recreationists are expected and encouraged to respect, take pride, and play a stewardship role in maintaining the quality and character of Alberta's natural resources.

For more information, please contact your local Alberta Sustainable Resource Development office by dialing 310-0000 or visit srd.alberta.ca

Wildlife Act

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter onto such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

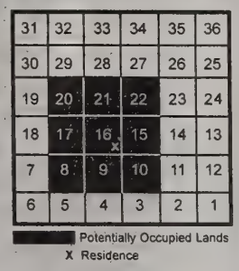
The *Wildlife Act* defines "occupied lands" as follows:

(a) privately owned lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence of any kind and not exceeding one section in area on which the owner or occupant actually resides, and

(b) any other privately owned land that is within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the section referred to in clause (a) and that is owned or leased by the same owner or occupant.

The occupied lands described in the above legislation do not need to be posted with signs to receive protection under Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act*.

The black area in the map (right) shows an example of nine square miles of land that could contain land falling within the definition of "occupied lands."



Petty Trespass Act

Amendments to the *Petty Trespass Act* came into force June 1, 2004. While it is still possible for a landowner to prohibit entry on to his or her land by giving oral or written notice or by posting signs prohibiting entry, the amendments now set out certain kinds of property where entry is prohibited without any notice required. These lands include those privately owned lands (and leased public lands not associated with grazing or cultivation – these are addressed on page 21) that are under cultivation, fenced or enclosed by a natural boundary or enclosed in a manner that indicates the landholder's intention to keep people off the premises or animals on the premises. **Importantly, hunters or others who access those lands must have permission before entering.**

Federal Criminal Code

The **Criminal Code** (Section 41) provides that a person in peaceable possession of real property can require a trespasser to vacate the property.

Access for Guiding

A Hunter Host, Big Game Designated Guide or Bird Game Designated Guide, when guiding on any privately held land, requires permission authorizing access from the landholder for conducting those guiding services on that land. Such a guide or host is required to carry on his person the landholder's name, address (or legal land location of landholder's residence) and telephone number.

Access for Control of Livestock Predation

Black Bear and Coyote*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) black bear or coyote on such lands, at all times of the year.

Timber Wolf*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf on such lands, and on any lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the above lands, provided he or she also has the right of access to these latter lands.

Cougar

Any person who is the owner or occupant of privately owned land may at any time of year, hunt (but not trap) cougar on such lands without a licence. Hunting with dogs is prohibited under this authority. Under this authority, registration is required within one week of the kill by bringing the skin and skull (or intact carcass) to a Fish and Wildlife Division District office (see page 16). A premolar tooth will be retained for aging.

* It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of furbearing animals (includes coyote and wolf) taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife. Refer to page 61 for information about seasons for coyote and wolf.

HUNTING IN ALBERTA PROVINCIAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Alberta's Parks Division provides hunting opportunities on over 85% of the land base managed as a Provincial Park or Protected Area. In protected areas where hunting is allowed some activities are restricted in order to protect sensitive areas and species or to address public safety or wildlife management issues. For detailed information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas contact your local Alberta Parks Division office or visit www.albertaparks.ca.

Classification of Protected Area	Hunting	Exceptions	OHV (including snowmobile) Use
Ecological Reserves	No	No	No
Wilderness Areas	No	No	No
Provincial Parks	No	Elk seasons in Cypress Hills	No
Provincial Recreation Areas (PRA)	No	Big game and game bird seasons in Blue Rapids, Fickle Lake, Wapiabi, Sulphur Gates, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot, and Lakeland PRAs	Lakeland PRA - Yes on designated trails only.
Wildland Parks	Yes	Bison hunting is not permitted in Wildland Parks outside the Bison Hunting Zone	On designated trails in a select number of Wildland Parks. For a complete listing visit www.albertaparks.ca
Willmore Wilderness Park	Yes	No	No
Heritage Rangelands	Yes	Entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions	Subject to grazing lease access conditions. www.srd.alberta.ca
Natural Areas	Yes	Access and other management conditions may apply. For a complete listing visit www.albertaparks.ca	Dependant on access conditions. For a complete listing visit www.albertaparks.ca

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves preserve and protect natural heritage in an undisturbed state for scientific research and education. The primary intent of this class of protected area is strict preservation of natural ecosystems, habitats, features and associated biodiversity. Hunting is prohibited in Ecological Reserves.

Wilderness Areas

Wilderness Areas preserve and protect natural heritage, where visitors are provided with opportunities for non-consumptive, nature based outdoor recreation. Hunting is prohibited in Wilderness Areas.

Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

Provincial Parks preserve natural heritage; they support outdoor recreation, heritage tourism and natural heritage appreciation activities that depend upon and are compatible with environmental protection. Provincial Recreation Areas support outdoor recreation and tourism: they often provide access to lakes, rivers, reservoirs and adjacent crown land.

In general, hunting or discharging a firearm (or bow) is prohibited in Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas. There are elk seasons in Cypress Hills Provincial Park and big game and game bird seasons in Blue Rapids, Fickle Lake, Wapiabi, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, the northwest corner of Evan-Thomas, Sulphur Gates, and Lakeland Provincial Recreation Areas. Firearms discharge permits are required to hunt in all provincial parks and recreation areas other than Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area, Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, Fickle Lake Provincial Recreation Area, and Wapiabi Provincial Recreation Area. Orientation sessions may also be required before hunting is permitted in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area. For more information on firearm discharge permits and orientation sessions for hunting in Provincial Parks or Provincial Recreation Areas please visit www.albertaparks.ca

If not in the process of hunting in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area that has an open season, all firearms must be unloaded, encased or dismantled.

Wildland Provincial Parks

Wildland Provincial Parks preserve and protect natural heritage and provide opportunities for backcountry recreation. Hunting is permitted in Wildland Provincial Parks. However, bison hunting in Wildland Provincial Parks is only permitted in the Hay-Zama Wildland Park, within the Bison Hunting Zone. Special access restrictions apply to all motorized vehicles.

Willmore Wilderness Park

Willmore Wilderness Park was established under its own legislation in 1959 and is similar in intent to Wildland Parks. Hunting is permitted in Willmore Wilderness Park; however, off-highway vehicle (and snowmobile) use is not permitted. Hunters are advised that the adjacent staging areas have different hunting and firearm storage regulations than Willmore Wilderness Park. Further information and maps are available at the Hinton Parks Division office at 780-865-8395.

Heritage Rangelands

Heritage Rangelands preserve and protect natural features that are representative of Alberta's prairies and grazing is used to maintain the grassland ecology. Two heritage rangelands have been established in Alberta - Black Creek Heritage Rangeland in the Whaleback area and OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland near Longview. These lands are cooperatively managed with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and grazing lease holders. Hunting is permitted, however entry is subject to grazing lease access conditions. For access conditions please visit http://srd.alberta.ca/RecreationPublicUse/RecreationOnAgriculturalPublicLand/

Natural Areas

Natural Areas preserve and protect sites of local significance and provide opportunities for recreation and nature appreciation activities. Hunting is permitted in Natural Areas, however, there are some sites with special management and safety considerations that restrict hunting and access, e.g. Wagner Natural Area, Riverlot 56, Sherwood Park Natural Area. For more information please visit www.albertaparks.ca . To find access conditions for Natural Areas that are subject to a grazing lease please visit http://srd.alberta.ca/RecreationPublicUse/RecreationOnAgriculturalPublicLand/

Kananaskis Country

Kananaskis Country is a multi-use area comprised of both protected areas and public land; hunters must be aware of what type of land they are accessing. Access to some areas may be affected when roads and recreational trails are temporarily closed. Information and maps are available from Visitor Information Centres with in Kananaskis Country. For more information please visit www.albertaparks.ca.

Hunters - Please be Aware:

Baiting

Baiting of all wildlife, including bears, wolves and coyotes, is not permitted in all Provincial Parks, Provincial Recreation Areas and Wildland Provincial Parks. There are two exceptions: 1) A limited number of Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) holders (registered trappers) and 2) A limited number of hunting guides who were historically authorized to conduct commercial guiding activities that used baits in an area prior to the area being established as a Wildland Provincial Park. Both exceptions are managed through permits and approvals issued by Alberta's Parks Division. For more information contact your local Parks Division office.

Found Dead Wildlife in Parks

In Provincial Parks, Wildland Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas it may be unlawful to remove dead wildlife that you find. For more information please contact your local Parks Division office. To obtain a permit to possess found dead wildlife, contact your local Fish and Wildlife Division office.

Hanging and Storage of Big Game

Unless authorized by a Conservation Officer it is unlawful to dress, hang, or store big game in a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area. Where these activities are permitted, please follow safe storage practices in order to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.

Be Respectful of Others

Provincial Parks and protected areas are multiple use sites and are used by a wide range of recreational users year round. When hunting in these locations, respect other users and recognize that there may be hiking, cycling, camping, picnicking or other activities going on in close proximity. Please use caution when transporting firearms and avoid the use of firearms for target shooting and sighting-in of rifles.

For more information on hunting in Provincial Parks and protected areas please visit www.albertaparks.ca or contact your local Parks Division office.

Edmonton: 780-427-3582
Northwest Region: 780-538-5350
Northeast Region: 780-623-5235
West Central Region: 780-960-8170
East Central Region: 403-340-7691
Kananaskis Country: 403-678-5508
South Region: 403-382-4097

RESTRICTED AREAS

Alberta has a variety of restricted areas. Please read the following sections carefully to determine how the various designations affect hunting opportunities.

ALL HUNTING

Wildlife Sanctuaries

Sanctuaries are intended to provide secure habitat for wildlife and thus allow populations to either increase or remain at desired levels. They include areas of high quality habitat, often where populations of some wildlife species have been significantly lowered or dispersed because of disturbance at some time in the past. Sanctuary status allows these areas to realize their potential to support wildlife and to act as core areas of production for animals that will disperse to surrounding areas. It also increases the opportunities for Albertans to view wildlife.

NOTE: Privately owned lands within wildlife sanctuaries are excluded from the sanctuaries.

Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries

It is unlawful to hunt within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road in a designated road corridor wildlife sanctuary (a corridor 730 m or 800 yards wide). No person shall possess a weapon in these sanctuaries unless the weapon, if it is a firearm, is unloaded **and** either dismantled, encased, or completely enclosed by another suitable covering. If crossing a road corridor wildlife sanctuary on horseback or on foot, a firearm must be unloaded and the person must be traveling in a direct route to leave the sanctuary.

There are 11 road corridor wildlife sanctuaries, shown in green on the enclosed WMU map. Eight are located in the Mountain and Foothills regions and three in the Boreal Region. Descriptions of the Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries are as follows:

Mountain and Foothills

1. Highwood – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
 (a) Highway 40 between the southern boundary of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Secondary Road 541,
 (b) Secondary Road 541 between Highway 40 and the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve;
2. Harold Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of the road locally known as the Harold Creek Road between the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve and Secondary Road 734;
3. Ya Ha Tinda – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

All proceeds go towards purchasing critical wildlife habitat in Alberta. Tickets are $10.00 each. Only 4,000 tickets printed. Draw date April 21, 2012. Prize must be accepted as awarded.
Must be 18 years of age
(Restrictions apply) Tickets will be sold in Alberta only.
Tickets may be purchased by calling 1-866-437-AFGA(2342)

or online at www.afga.org

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locally known as the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Road between the Red Deer River Provincial Recreation Area and the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch headquarters building;

4. Forestry Trunk Road – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 734 between its intersection with the road locally known as the Lynx Creek Road in section 26, township 36, range 14, west of the 5th meridian and the Seven Mile Provincial Recreation Area;
5. Cutoff Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Cutoff Creek Road between Provincial Highway 734 and the Cutoff Creek Equestrian Staging Forest Recreation Area;
6. North Ram – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Secondary Road 734 that is in Township 38, Range 15, West of the 5th Meridian and north of the North Ram River;
7. Onion Creek Road – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road locally known as the Onion Creek Road in section 9, township 36, range 14, west of the 5th meridian to its intersection with Provincial Highway 734
8. Kootenay Plains – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Highway 11 between Allstones Creek and the eastern boundary of Banff National Park;
9. Nordegg – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Road 734 where it intersects the North Saskatchewan River in section 34, township 39, range 15, west of the 5th meridian to where it crosses Shunda Creek and within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of Provincial Highway 11 from where it intersects Provincial Highway 734 to where it crosses Shunda Creek
10. Highway 40/Little Smoky/Simonette – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
 (a) that portion of Highway 40 between the Berland River and the Muskeg River,
 (b) the road locally known as the Huckleberry Tower Road,
 (c) that portion of Secondary Road 734 between Highway 40 and its junction with the Foothills Forest Products Road locally known as the Smoky Mainline,
 (d) the Foothills Forest Products Road locally known as the Smoky Mainline in Townships 57 and 58, Ranges 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, West of the 6th Meridian,
 (e) that portion of the Foothills Forest Products Road locally known as the Ghost Mainline in Townships 57, 58, 59 and 60, Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, West of the 6th Meridian,
 (f) the Foothills Forest Products Road locally known as the Simonette Mainline in Townships 58 and 59, Ranges 3 and 4, West of the 6th Meridian;

Boreal Region

11. Whitemud Hills – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Whitemud Hills Haul Road from Highway 35 to the western boundary of Section 14, Township 85, Range 2, West of the 6th Meridian;
12. Sulphur Lake – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Sulphur Lake Haul Road from the southeast corner of Township 88, Range 1, West of the 6th Meridian to its junction with the road locally known as the Canfor East Road in Township 89, Range 3, West of the 6th Meridian;
13. Peace River Pulp Mill – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
 (a) the portion of secondary road 986 locally known as the Peace River Pulp Road between the Peace River Pulp Mill in township 85, range 21, west of the 5th meridian easterly to its junction with the road locally known as the Peace River Pulp Resource Road in the south-east quarter of section 17, township 85, range 19, west of the 5th meridian.
 (b) the road locally known as the Peace River Pulp Resource Road from its intersection with secondary road 986 in the south-east quarter of section 17, township 85, range 19, west of the 5th meridian northerly to the centre of the north-east quarter of section 14, township 90, range 20, west of the 5th meridian.

Seasonal Sanctuaries

No person shall approach within 800 metres (0.5 mile) of any of the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15.

1. The island known as Pelican Island in Newell Lake in Township 17, Range 15, W4M;
2. The unnamed island in Namur Lake in Sections 35 and 36, Township 97, Range 17, W4M;
3. The unnamed island in Beaverhill Lake in Section 5, Township 52, Range 17, W4M;
4. The unnamed island in the unnamed lake in Section 8, 9, 16 and 17, Township 95, Range 17, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in Scope Reservoir in LSD 2 and 3, Section 10, Township 13, Range 14, W4M.

No person shall enter the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15:

1. That portion of the unnamed island in Lower Therien Lake in the NW Quarter of Section 14, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
2. That portion of Lower Therien Lake in Section 2, 3, 10 and 11, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
3. The unnamed islands in the Slave River in the SW Quarter of Section 30, Township 126, Range 10, W4M, and the SE Quarter of Section 25, Township 126, Range 11, W4M;
4. The island known as Bird Island in Buffalo Lake in Section 30, Township 40, Range 20, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in Joseph Lake in Section 12, Township 50, Range 22, W4M.

No person shall enter the following seasonal sanctuaries between May 1 and August 15:

1. The following lands to the extent that, at any given time, they are not covered by any of the waters of Muriel Lake,
 a) within township 59, range 5, west of the fourth meridian, the east half of legal subdivisions 9 and 16 of section 19; legal subdivisions



12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of section 20; legal subdivisions 13 and 14 of section 21; the northeast quarter of section 21; legal subdivisions 2, 3 and 4 of section 28; legal subdivisions 10 and 11 of section 29; the southeast quarter and the southwest quarter of section 29;

b) within township 60, range 5, west of the fourth meridian, legal subdivisions 5, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of section 1; legal subdivisions 8, 9, 15 and 16 of section 2; the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of section 11; legal subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 12.

2. All areas within legal subdivisions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of section 35, township 68, range 15, west of the fourth meridian and legal subdivisions 9 and 16 of section 34, township 68, range 15, west of the fourth meridian.

Métis Settlements

In general, only a member of a Métis Settlement Association, formed under the *Métis Settlements Act*, may hunt or trap wildlife on a Métis Settlement. Hunting by non-members may be authorized under settlement by-laws.

Forest Recreation Areas

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within a forest recreation area. It is also unlawful to "dress" a big game animal within a forest recreation area.

National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in national parks, and hunters should be especially careful about their locations when hunting near park boundaries. Firearms are prohibited in national parks except on through highways and in town sites where they must be unloaded and encased.



Other Restricted Areas

Except for the special seasons provided in WMUs 728 and 730, hunting is not permitted in the following areas:

- Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (WMU 726),
- Canadian Forces Base Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730),
- Canadian Forces Base Suffield (WMU 732),
- Ghost River Wilderness Area (WMU 734),
- Greene Valley Wildlife Management Unit (WMU 926),
- Siffleur Wilderness Area (WMU 736),
- White Goat Wilderness Area (WMU 738), and
- within 91 m (100 yards) of Highway 1 or Highway 1A in WMU 410.

BIG GAME HUNTING

The hunting of big game is not permitted in the following areas:

- **the Gregg River Resources Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438, and**
- **the Cardinal River Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438.**

Saskatoon Mountain Primitive Weapons Area

Only shotguns, muzzle loaders and archery equipment may be used to hunt big game in this area in WMU 357, located 20 km west of Grande Prairie on the north side of Highway 43 (see enclosed Wildlife Management Unit Map). For a more detailed map/description of area, please contact the Grande Prairie Fish and Wildlife office.

Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep

It is unlawful to hunt trophy or non-trophy sheep within the following areas:

- 183 m (200 yards) of the Canada Cement rock quarry at Exshaw.
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 1A between the western boundary of the Stoney Indian Reserve and Canmore,
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 3,
- 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the Sheep River from the eastern boundary of WMU 406 upstream to Dyson Creek,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the Inland Cement Rock Quarry near Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the intersection of Whitehorse Creek and the main forestry trunk road south of Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of where Highway 16 intersects the eastern boundary of Jasper National Park,
- 3.2 km (2.0 mi.) of the intersection of the Forestry Trunk Road and the South Ram River in Section 18, Township 36, Range 13, West of the Fifth Meridian,

GAME BIRD HUNTING

Game Bird Sanctuaries

Hunting game birds and carrying shotguns are prohibited in game bird sanctuaries except with a special permit. Descriptions of these sanctuaries are available from the Alberta Queen's Printer in Edmonton (page 12). Game bird sanctuaries are located in the following WMUs:

WMU	Sanctuary	WMU	Sanctuary
102	Pakowki Lake	242	Ministik Lake
148	Many Island Lake	242	Miquelon Lake
212	Inglewood	357	Saskatoon Lake
220	Red Deer	503	Lac La Biche
238	Birch Lake	530	Richardson Lake



Restricted Rivers

Hunting of migratory game birds on the following rivers, over any islands in these rivers or within 91 m (100 yards) of the edge of the waters of these rivers is prohibited until November 1:

1. Bow River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Calgary to Highway 24.
2. Little Smoky River downstream from Highway 43.
3. Peace River.
4. Red Deer River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Red Deer.
5. Smoky River downstream from the mouth of the Wapiti River.
6. South Saskatchewan River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Medicine Hat.

Restricted Lakes

Hunting game birds on the following lakes, over any island in these lakes or within 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of the edge of the waters of these lakes is prohibited until November 1 (Note additional restrictions below for Saskatoon Lake and Ministik Lake). Efforts are made to post signs near these lakes, but not all lakes may be so identified. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the restrictions in the area he or she hunts.

Prairie WMUs

160 Little Fish Lake (28-16,17-W4)
162 Berry Creek Reservoir (Carolside Dam) (26,27-12-W4)
162 Blood Indian Creek Reservoir (26-9-W4)
162 Birkenshire Lake (23,24-28-11-W4)
163 Currant Lake (33-3-W4)
163 Grassy Island Lake (33-3-W4)
163 Misty Lake (33-3-W4)
163 Sounding Creek Reservoir (30-5,6-W4)
164 Fitzgerald Lake (3,4-33-8-W4)
164 Kirkpatrick Lake (33,34-9,10-W4)
164 Rushmere Lake (33-8-W4)
164 Syson Lake (35-12,13-W4)
164 Grays Lake (28,32,33-32-7-W4)
164 Wiste Lake (2,11-33-7-W4)
164 Unnamed Lake (23 to 27-33-8-W4)
164 Unnamed Lake (31,32-33-8-W4)
164 Polly Lake (7-31-1-W4)
164 Willowbend Reservoir (K-B Lake) (1-31-13-W4)
166 Dowling Lake (31,32-14,15-W4)
166 Sullivan Lake (34 to 37-14,15-W4)

Parkland WMUs

200 Sounding Lake (36,37-3,4-W4)
202 Armstrong Lake (42-10-W4)
202 Unnamed Lake (8,9-38-10-W4)
203 Bellshill (Goose) Lake (42-11-W4)
206 Buffalo Lake (40,41-20,21,22-W4**)
221 Cygnet Lake (38-1-W5 and 38-28-W4)
228 Driedmeat Lake (44,45-19,20-W4)
232 Blackburn Lake (10,11-43-10-W4)
234 Dolcy Lake (26,35-42-4-W4)
234 Gillespie Lake (39,40-2-W4)
234 McIntyre Lake (16,17-44-1-W4)
236 Kenilworth Lake (50-4-W4)
242 Beaverhill Lake (that portion lying in 50,51-17,18-W4 – approx. southern 1/2 of lake)
242 Ministik Lake* (50-21-W4)
242 Oliver Lake (50-21-W4)
242 Lake 'A' (50,51-17-W4) adjacent to Beaverhill Lake
252 Whitford Lake (56-15,16-W4)

* ***Hunting of game birds in the Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.***

** Hunting of upland game birds only is permitted in 9-40-21-W4.

Foothills WMUs

357 Saskatoon Lake* (including Little Lake) (71, 72-7,8-W6)

* ***Hunting of game birds in Saskatoon Lake Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.***

Boreal WMUs

502 Stebbing Lake (63-7-W4)
523 Winagami Lake* (76,77-18,19-W5)
523 Kimiwan Lake (78-19-W5)
523 Lac Magloire (79-21-W5)

* Winigami Lake is within Winigami Lake Provincial Park. Hunting is prohibited on the lake and islands.

VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

The use of vehicles, including off-highway vehicles (OHVs), is controlled by various regulations. Refer to the enclosed Wildlife Management Unit Map for more information.

Vehicle Use and Restrictions

The 'footprint' of vehicles is much greater than the average foot. Noise, erosion, soil compaction, habitat disturbance and vegetation impacts generally increase with vehicle use. Hunters are requested to minimize the impacts of vehicles where they are permitted and abide by limitations to vehicle use where applicable.

All off-highway vehicles (OHVs) operated on public land must be registered, insured and have a visible licence plate. Vehicles must also have a headlight, tail light, muffler and spark arrestor.

Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZ)

Several areas in the province are designated as FLUZs to allow for the management of recreational interests and pressures on local ecology. On and off highway vehicle restrictions apply in all FLUZs and may limit vehicle type, trail access and seasons open to vehicle use. WMU and FLUZ boundaries may overlap and all – or portions of – WMUs may have vehicle access restrictions. Please refer to FLUZ maps available at your local SRD office or visit srd.alberta.ca, see Recreation and Public Use Section.

Wildland Provincial Parks

Hunting is allowed in the Wildland Provincial parks shown on the enclosed WMU map. However, special access restrictions apply to all motorized vehicles. For example, Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park

- Canada's #1 PSE Dealer
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provides a network of designated trails on which only specific OHVs (quads and snowmobiles) may be operated from May 1 to December 15. For more detailed information, contact Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

Hunting with Motorized Vehicles

It is unlawful to

- discharge a **weapon** at antelope from within 46 m (50 yards) of a vehicle;
- use motorized travel within Willmore Wilderness Park; and
- carry a weapon (see definition on page 15) on an OHV **between 1 hour before sunrise and the following noon** during an open season for big game* on public land in the following WMUs: 102-166, 200-260, 300-351, 354-360, 400-446, 507, 508, 514, 521, 522, 526 and 841. This does not apply to a person who is traveling on a direct route to or from a location accessible by vehicles designed for highway travel and his or her isolated campsite, and the weapons and ammunition are carried out of view in separate locked containers (and remain locked during the trip).
Also, the restriction does not apply in a WMU when the only big game season open is a spring black bear season.

* this restriction applies to all hunters (including bird game hunters).

Recreation Trails

A number of forested areas throughout Alberta have designated recreation trails. These areas allow a variety of activities, including hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Trail users and backcountry travellers should be aware of current land use restrictions. For more information on recreation trails, contact the Information Centre in Edmonton (see page 16).

Trappers' Trails

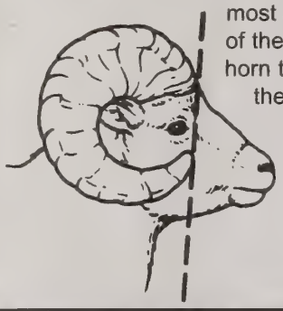
Many trails on Crown lands are created and maintained by trappers. To avoid interference with trapline operations, recreationists are urged to avoid motorized use of trails marked with signs indicating "Active Trapline," especially during trapping seasons of November through February.

Forest Land Use Zone (FLUZ)	Off-Highway Vehicles	Associated WMUs
Allison Chinook	Seasonal access on designated trails only	402
Athabasca Ranch	Seasonal access only	344
Brule Lake	Designated corridors only	438
Castle	Seasonal access on designated trails only	400
Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle	Snowmobiles only with additional conditions	404
Coal Branch	Seasonal access on designated trails only	436-438
Dormer / Sheep	Designated trails only	416
Ghost	Designated trails only	316, 412, 414, 416
Job / Cline	Seasonal access on designated trails only	426, 430, 432, 434
Kiska / Willson	Designated trails only with some seasonal restrictions	326, 328, 416-418, 420, 422, 426, 428-430
McLean Creek Off-Highway	Permitted with conditions	406
Sibbald Snow Vehicle	Snowmobiles only with additional conditions	406
Blackstone / Wapiti	NOT PERMITTED	430, 434
Holmes Crossing	NOT PERMITTED	507
Kananaskis Country	NOT PERMITTED	404, 406, 408
Panther Corners	NOT PERMITTED	416, 418
Whitecourt Sandhills X-Country Ski	NOT PERMITTED	507

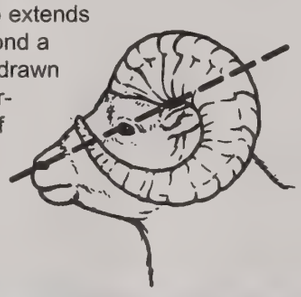


— Big Game Identification —

Trophy Sheep – A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that a straight line drawn from the most anterior point of the base of the horn to the tip of the horn extends beyond the anterior edge of the eye when viewed in profile.

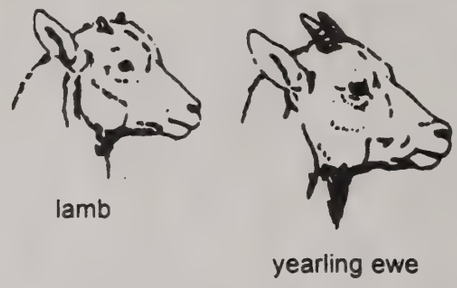


Full-Curl Trophy Sheep – A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that when viewed in profile, its tip extends upward beyond a straight line drawn from the rear-most point of the base of the horn to the centre of the nostril.

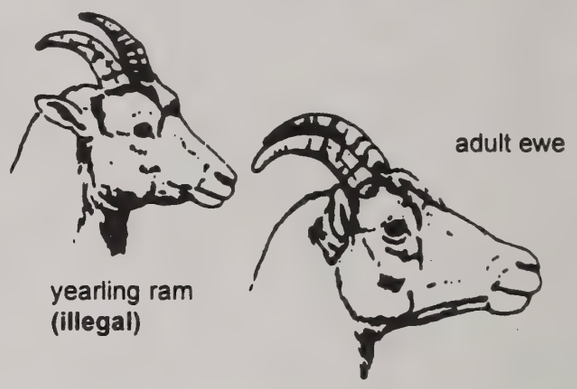


Be Careful!

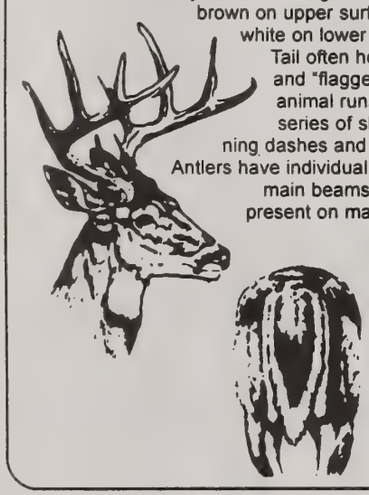
Study a ram carefully when determining its trophy status. Be sure to view the ram's head from a horizontal plane and in profile, with the front of the right and left horn bases aligned. Views from below, in front, or any other perspective other than "in profile" will not provide for accurate judgement. Some rams may not be legal even if they are old or have horns severely broomed or with turned up tips.



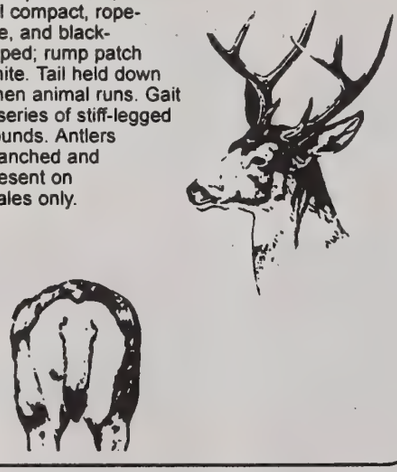
Non-trophy Sheep — A female bighorn sheep or a male bighorn sheep under one year of age.



White-tailed Deer — Body color grey to reddish brown, under body white. Tail large and bushy, brown on upper surface and white on lower surface. Tail often held erect and "flagged" when animal runs. Gait a series of short running dashes and bounds. Antlers have individual tines off main beams. Antlers present on males only.



Mule Deer — Body color grey to brownish grey, under body white. Ears prominent; tail compact, rope-like, and black-tipped; rump patch white. Tail held down when animal runs. Gait a series of stiff-legged bounds. Antlers branched and present on males only.



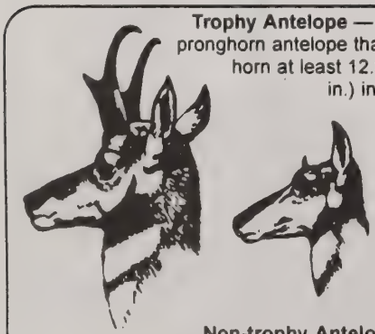
Antlered

A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

Antlerless

A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not "antlered" (as defined above).

Trophy Antelope — A male pronghorn antelope that has a horn at least 12.6 cm (5 in.) in length.

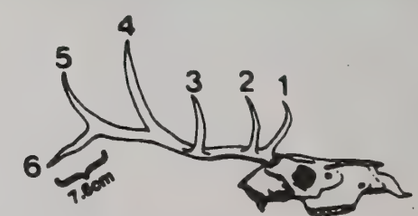


Non-trophy Antelope — A female pronghorn antelope or a male pronghorn antelope having horns not more than 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Woodland Caribou – Woodland Caribou are classified as Threatened animals in Alberta.

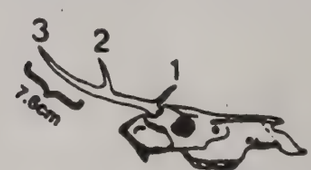
THERE IS NO OPEN SEASON FOR CARIBOU.





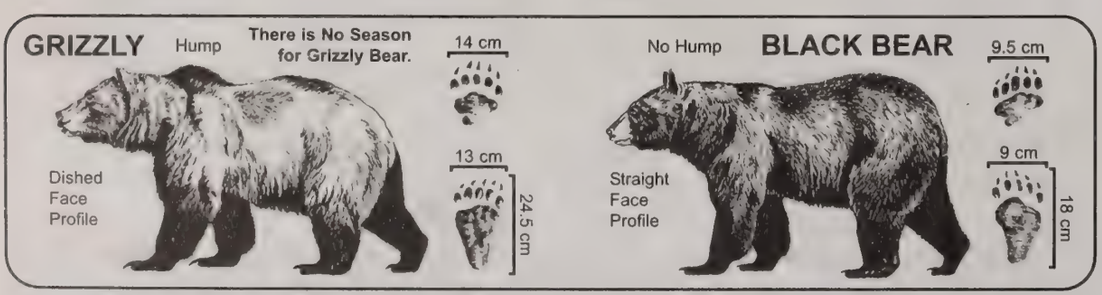
Six-point Elk — A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than five tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Note: The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.



Three-point Elk — A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than two tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

Note: The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.



Moose

Cow – large, long nose and face; eyes appear close to top of head; rectangular body proportions; 1.8 m (6 ft.) high at the shoulder; may be found alone.

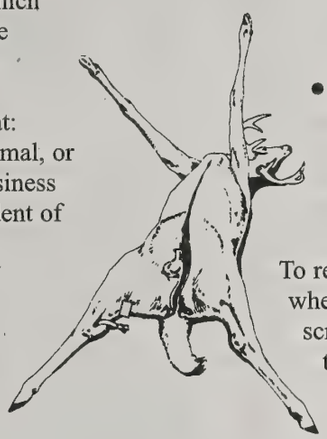
Calf – small, short nose and face; eyes appear more centered between tip of nose and top of head; squarish body proportions; 1.2 m (4 ft.) high at the shoulder; seldom found alone.



EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

In the case of **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep** the evidence of sex, species and class must remain attached to the carcass (cannot be surgically or otherwise removed) until:

- the carcass is delivered to a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*, or
- the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption at:
 - the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, or
 - the usual residence (a residence that is neither a business premises nor attached to such a premises) of a resident of Alberta and that resident is in attendance.



The evidence of sex, species or class that must be retained is as follows:

- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison** and **non-trophy sheep** – attached to the same part of the animal to which the tag is affixed, **one** of the following:
 - testicles, scrotum, or udder, and in the case of deer only, the completely haired tail, or
 - the head with horns or antlers attached if the animal has horns or antlers, or
 - the head (complete with the skin on it) if the animal has no horns or antlers, and
- in addition,
 - the complete skull plate with horns or antlers intact must be retained with the carcass of the male antelope, male elk or male non-trophy sheep
 - the complete head must be retained with the carcass of a calf moose harvested under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence.
- **cougar** – one of the following attached to the skin and visible until compulsory registration is complete:
 - in the case of a male, the scrotum
 - in the case of a female, a teat or a portion of a mammary gland.

To retain the scrotum or udder, cut to one side of the scrotum or udder when opening the animal for gutting. If you skin your game, the scrotum or udder must remain attached to the meat. If you remove the testicles and penis, leave the entire scrotum intact. The meat will not be tainted.

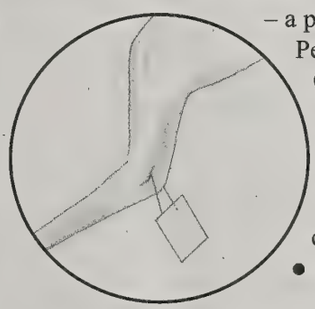
Deboning: a hunter can debone a carcass while in the field and still follow the requirements described above for moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and non-trophy sheep. It's not necessary for the full hind quarter of meat to remain intact while still bearing the required evidence, provided that portion of the leg and tendon where the tag is attached also has the evidence of sex, species or class still attached to it.

TAGGING

NOTE: Antlered moose, elk and deer must **NOT** be tagged around the antler base. Please review the following instructions.

Immediately after killing a big game animal, the appropriate tag(s) must be affixed and securely locked to the animal as follows:

- **trophy sheep, goat** – one tag through the nostril and, as soon as the skin is removed from the skull, one tag around the lower bone of the eye socket leaving the horns and eye intact.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison** and **non-trophy sheep** – through the space between the bone and the tendon of a hind leg directly above the hock and around either the bone or the tendon.
- **bear** and **cougar** – to the skin.



Partner Licence

Upon killing an animal, a partner must immediately inform the primary licence holder (and vice versa – if the primary licence holder kills the animal, he or she must immediately inform the partner) of the killing. The primary licence holder must, immediately upon arriving at the carcass, tag the animal in the normal fashion (See page 22 for more information).

Tags must remain affixed until, in the case of

- **trophy sheep, goat** – the animal is registered (page 44) and the skin is processed.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison or non-trophy sheep** – the carcass is delivered to:
 - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*,
 - the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, or
 - the usual residence (a residence that is neither a business premises nor attached to such a premises) of a resident of Alberta and that resident is in attendance, and the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption.
- **bear and cougar** – the skin is processed.

To tag your kill using the adhesive tag associated with your licence, attach the wire loop to the animal as described above for various species and classes. Close and secure the loop by affixing the adhesive tag over the free ends of the wire.

BOWHUNTING

Note: The following applies to bowhunting other than with a cross-bow. For information about hunting with cross-bows, see page 62.

Except for the hunting of black bear, coyote, cougar or wolf under the circumstances outlined on page 32, a Bowhunting Permit is required by anyone who hunts big game, game bird, wolf or coyote with a bow and arrow. Bowhunters with appropriate general or special licences may hunt during the general seasons, archery-only seasons and primitive weapon

seasons. A Bowhunting Permit is required in combination with a big game licence. In some areas of the province, hunters require special licences to hunt certain species of big game – see season tables. A bowhunter who obtains an Antlered Moose Special Licence, Antlerless Moose Special Licence, Calf Moose Special Licence, Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlered Elk Special Licence, Antlerless Elk Special Licence or Landowner Special Licence may, if an early archery season is offered, hunt under the authority of that licence during the archery season but only in the WMU specified on the licence and only for the type and species of animal for which the licence was issued. Bowhunters are reminded that, in some situations, archery-only seasons for some species may be in progress at the same time as primitive weapon and rifle seasons for other species in the same WMU.

Persons hunting big game must use an authorized bow and an authorized arrow. An authorized bow is one that is held, drawn and released by muscular power and has a draw weight of not less than 18 kg (40 lb.). This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 in.) to its head. An authorized arrow is one that is not less than 61 cm (24 in.) in length that has a tip that bears a head that is not intentionally designed to resist being withdrawn after it has penetrated an object. Furthermore, it must either have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.

Hunters are asked to remove their tree stands at the end of the hunting seasons unless permission has been granted by the landholder to do otherwise.





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After harvesting **any** of the animals listed below, a hunter must register the kill at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16) within the specified time period. Where parts are required to be submitted, they must be submitted at the time the animal is registered in person by the hunter who killed the animal. For species where parts are not required to be submitted, the hunter who killed the animal may not have to attend in person at the time of registration. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 16) for further information.

- Goat (the incisor bar must be submitted);
- Male sheep over 1 year of age (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact must be submitted);
- Wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 to 318, 324 to 330, 339 or 400 to 434 under any authority;
- Cougar (the skull and skin must be submitted, complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible). A premolar tooth will be retained for aging.
- Bobcat (the skin must be submitted complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible);
- Bison taken in WMUs 536 and 539. (Successful draw applicants will be contacted about collecting biological samples).

Registration Deadlines – All registrations (except for cougar, bison and sheep) must be completed no later than 14 days after the close of the open season during which the animal was killed **or** 30 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first. Cougars that are harvested by persons other than on privately owned land under a landowner or occupant authority must be registered within one business day following the kill. (For cougar taken by landowners or occupants see page 32). Sheep must be registered within 14 business days following the kill or 7 days of the close of the season. Bison taken in WMUs 536 and 539 must be registered within 5 business days of the kill. If an animal is exported, it must first be registered. Persons registering goat, sheep, bison, cougar, bobcat and wolf are required to provide the following information:

- species and sex of the animal,
- date and location of the kill.

As part of the registration process, trophy sheep horns will be fitted with a permanent identification marker. Other animals may be marked in another manner or retained for examination.

Compulsory registration provides information about the relative numbers of males, females and young in big game populations. It also provides the dates and locations of the harvest. Age structure and sex ratios provide an indication of population productivity (how many young survive to become adults) and status (increasing, decreasing or stable). The population and harvest data can then be used to determine the harvest goals or quotas for following years. This valuable information, provided by hunters, is essential for managing cougars, goats, trophy sheep and wolves in Alberta.

It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See pages 3, 29 and 68 for details.

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Prairie WMUs (100 Series)

Government of Alberta ■

Sunday hunting for big game is prohibited in Prairie WMUs (100 Series).
Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.
General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2011 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See pages 3, 29 and 68 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered	S1 - N1	(Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 152, 156, 158, 160, 164
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	166
	Antlerless	S1 - N1	■ (Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 152, 156, 158, 160, 164
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	166
	Antlered	S1 - N1[2]	O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	150, 151, 162, 163
			(Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26 N30 - D3, D7 - D10 D14 - D17	
	Antlerless	S1 - N1[2]	■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	150, 151, 162, 163
			■ (Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26 N30 - D3, D7 - D10 D14 - D17	
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N1	■ (Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 152, 156, 158, 160, 164
		S1 - N1[2]	■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	150, 151, 162, 163
			■ (Wed – Sat only) N2 - N5, N9 - N12 N16 - N19, N23 - N26 N30 - D3, D7 - D10 D14 - D17	
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	166
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	151, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		■ S7 - S23 ■ S24 - O8 ■ O9 - O23	102

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		■ S7 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16 ■ N17 - D20	104, 108, (124, 144, 148, 150)
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	(164, 166, 208)[1] (151, 152)

Additional hunting opportunities in the Prairie WMUs:

- Either Sex Elk Special Licence, Antelope Archery Special Licence, Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence and Trophy Antelope Special Licence. Refer to page 61 for season dates or to the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet for further details.
- Cypress Hills Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 elk, either antlered or antlerless, with a bow and arrow in WMUs 116, 118 and 119 during the archery season, S1 - O15.

1 Holders of this licence may hunt in WMU 164 and WMU 166 Mon.–Sat., and in WMU 208 Mon.–Sun.

2 Bowhunters should be aware that near the end of this season, a primitive weapon season is occurring at the same time.

BIG GAME SEASONS



Parkland WMUs (200 Series & 728, 730, 936)

Government of Alberta

Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.
General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2011 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Sunday hunting for big game is prohibited in WMUs 728, 730 and 936.

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See pages 3, 29 and 68 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer[1]	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 258, 260
		S1 - N30		212, 248
		O17 - O31	N9 - N30	936[2]
		S1 - O31[8]	O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	200, 234, 236, 256
			N1 - D20	
		S1 - O31	N1 - D20	202, 232
	Antlered	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	210
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	210
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 252, 254, 258, 260
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	202, 232
	Antlered	S1 - O31[8]	■ O15 – O31[8] (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	200, 234, 236, 256
			■ N1 - D20	
	Antlerless	S1 - O31[6, 8]	O15 – O31[7] (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	200, 234, 236, 256
			N1 - D20[7]	

Big Game Seasons in PARKLAND WMUs continued next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N30		212, 248
	Antlered	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	250
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 258, 260
		■ S1 - O14	■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	200, 234, 236, 256
			■ N1 - N30	
		S1 - N30		212, 248
			■ D1 - D3[3] ■ D5 - D10 ■ D12 - D17	728, 730
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936[2]
	Antlerless		■ (Mon. – Fri. only) O25 - D7[4]	248 (Strathcona County portion only)
	Antlerless (calf only)		■ D1 - D3[3] ■ D5 - D10 ■ D12 - D17	728, 730
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - N30		212, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936[2]
			■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	200, 234
		S1 - O31[8]	■ N1 - D20 and J1 - J20, 2012	(200, 202, 203, 232, 234)
	Antlered (3-point or larger)[5]	S1 - O24	O25 - N30	214
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	216, 221, 224
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	224
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2012	214
	Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2012	216, 221
			■ D1 - D20 ■ J3 - J20, 2012 Mon. - Fri. only (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	212

Black Bear and Cougar Seasons – See pages 59 and 60.

1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence will be issued with 2 tags and is valid only in WMUs 200-208, 214-238, 244, 246 and 254-258.

2 Hunters (including bowhunters) require a Firearms Discharge Permit to hunt in WMU 936. Self-registration discharge permits are no longer available. Hunters must contact the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area office at **780-922-3293** for information on requirements to obtain the discharge permit. In WMU 936, vehicle access is permitted to the Staging Areas only. Horses are permitted only on designated trails and in open pastures. General area access is by muscular power only (bicycle or walking).

3 From D1 - D3, this season is open to hunting only by means of archery or muzzle loader.

4 This season is open to hunting only by means of archery, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun.

Footnotes continued on page 50

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Genesee Expands Hunting Program

Capital Power at the Genesee Generating Station has expanded their hunting program to include black power rifles, cross bows and shotguns. The archery hunting program will continue. These changes will provide increased hunting opportunities for the public in an area well known for it's Whitetail and Mule Deer populations.

The program, in partnership with the "Hunting for Tomorrow Foundation", is open to all eligible hunters. There are no costs to participate, but there are specific rules all participants must adhere to.

Public access to Capital Power's land at Genesee Generating Station land is only permitted through the Hunting for Tomorrow program.

The mentorship bow hunting program is also still active. This program pairs youth participants and first time hunters with a qualified mentor to receive one-on-one bow hunting instruction and opportunities.

Genesee staff can be on the land 24-hours a day and are at risk if you hunt in unauthorized areas.

Please protect yourself and others.
We appreciate your cooperation.

The "Hunting for Tomorrow Foundation" administers all hunting on Capital Power land. For more information or to apply to hunt at Genesee contact: Kelly Semple, Hunting for Tomorrow

Tel. 780-462-2444 Website: www.huntingfortomorrow.com
email: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com

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5 See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

6 This season applies to licence holders of a Mule Deer Licence and/or a Supplemental Antlerless Mule Deer Licence.

7 This season applies to licence holders of a Supplemental Antlerless Mule Deer Licence.

8 Bowhunters should be aware that near the end of this season, a primitive weapon season is occurring at the same time.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:

- Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 248) Licence. Holders of this licence may kill two antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMUs 212 and 248 during the archery-only season, S1 – N30.
- Foothills Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, shotgun, or muzzle loader in WMU 212 on the following dates: D1 – D20 (Monday to Friday only). When hunting, they must carry written permission from the landowner involved.
- WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 antlerless elk with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMU 212 during the archery only season, S1 – N30.
- Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence. Refer to page 61 for season dates or the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet for further details.
- Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill **three** white-tailed deer, only 1 of which may be antlered, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzle loader or shotgun in that portion of WMU 248 within the Counties of Strathcona and Leduc only from Mondays to Fridays between the following dates: O25 – D7. Information about this hunt is available from the Fish and Wildlife Division office in Edmonton and from Strathcona County Hall, 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park.

BIG GAME SEASONS



Foothills WMUs (300 Series)

Government of Alberta

Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

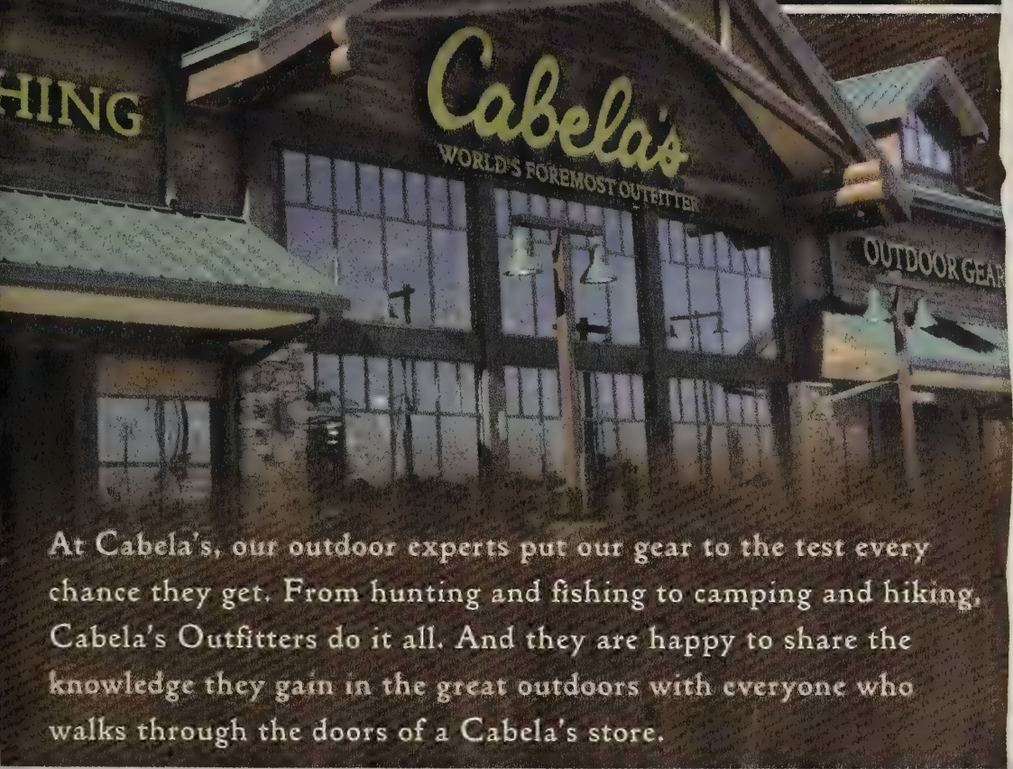
■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2011 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer[1]	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
		S1 - O24	O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 360
	Antlered	A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	358, 359
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	318, 320
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N7	358, 359
		A25 - S23	N1 - N30	316
		S1 - O31	N1 - N7	318, 320
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 348
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326, 346, 358
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356
		A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	328, 330, 357, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	338
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	357, 359, 360

Big Game Seasons in FOOTHILLS WMUs continued on page 54

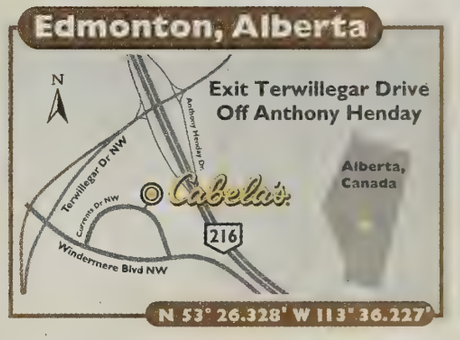
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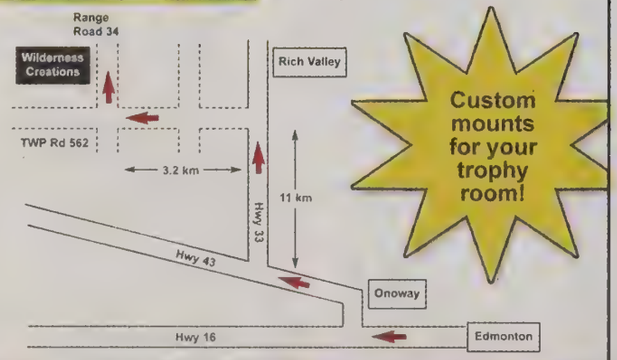
	DATE	Calgary Rise	Calgary Set	Coronation Rise	Coronation Set	Edmonton Rise	Edmonton Set	Ft. McMurray Rise	Ft. McMurray Set	High Rise
MDT	Sept. 1	6:49	8:22	6:37	8:13	6:43	8:24	6:28	8:22	6:47
	Sept. 5	6:55	8:13	6:44	8:04	6:50	8:15	6:36	8:11	6:56
	Sept. 10	7:03	8:02	6:52	7:53	6:58	8:02	6:46	7:58	7:06
	Sept. 15	7:11	7:51	7:00	7:41	7:07	7:50	6:56	7:44	7:17
	Sept. 20	7:19	7:39	7:08	7:29	7:16	7:38	7:06	7:31	7:28
	Sept. 25	7:27	7:28	7:16	7:18	7:25	7:26	7:16	7:17	7:39
	Sept. 30	7:35	7:17	7:25	7:06	7:33	7:13	7:26	7:03	7:50
	Oct. 1	7:36	7:15	7:26	7:04	7:35	7:11	7:28	7:01	7:53
	Oct. 5	7:43	7:06	7:33	6:54	7:42	7:01	7:37	6:50	8:02
	Oct. 10	7:51	6:55	7:42	6:43	7:52	6:49	7:47	6:37	8:13
	Oct. 15	7:59	6:44	7:50	6:32	8:01	6:38	7:58	6:24	8:24
	Oct. 20	8:08	6:34	7:59	6:21	8:10	6:27	8:08	6:11	8:36
	Oct. 25	8:16	6:24	8:08	6:11	8:20	6:16	8:19	5:59	8:48
	Oct. 30	8:25	6:14	8:17	6:01	8:29	6:05	8:30	5:47	9:00
	Nov. 1	8:28	6:11	8:21	5:57	8:33	6:01	8:35	5:43	9:04
	Nov. 5	8:35	6:04	8:28	5:50	8:41	5:54	8:43	5:34	9:14
MST	Nov. 10	7:44	4:56	7:37	4:42	7:50	4:45	7:54	4:24	8:26
	Nov. 15	7:52	4:49	7:46	4:34	8:00	4:37	8:05	4:14	8:38
	Nov. 20	8:01	4:43	7:54	4:28	8:09	4:30	8:16	4:06	8:49
	Nov. 25	8:09	4:37	8:03	4:23	8:17	4:24	8:26	3:59	9:00
	Nov. 30	8:16	4:34	8:10	4:18	8:25	4:19	8:35	3:53	9:10
	Dec. 1	8:17	4:33	8:12	4:18	8:27	4:19	8:37	3:52	9:12
	Dec. 5	8:23	4:31	8:17	4:15	8:33	4:16	8:43	3:49	9:19
	Dec. 10	8:28	4:30	8:23	4:14	8:39	4:14	8:50	3:46	9:26
	Dec. 15	8:33	4:30	8:28	4:14	8:44	4:14	8:56	3:45	9:32
	Dec. 20	8:37	4:31	8:31	4:15	8:48	4:15	9:00	3:47	9:37
	Dec. 25	8:39	4:34	8:34	4:18	8:50	4:18	9:02	3:49	9:39
	Dec. 30	8:40	4:38	8:34	4:22	8:50	4:23	9:02	3:54	9:39
	Jan. 1	8:40	4:40	8:34	4:24	8:50	4:25	9:02	3:56	9:38
	Jan. 5	8:39	4:44	8:34	4:29	8:49	4:30	9:00	4:02	9:36
	Jan. 10	8:37	4:51	8:31	4:36	8:47	4:37	8:56	4:10	9:32
	Jan. 15	8:33	4:58	8:27	4:43	8:42	4:44	8:51	4:19	9:26
	Jan. 20	8:29	5:06	8:23	4:51	8:37	4:53	8:45	4:29	9:18
	Jan. 25	8:23	5:14	8:17	5:00	8:31	5:02	8:37	4:39	9:09
	Jan. 30	8:16	5:23	8:09	5:09	8:23	5:12	8:28	4:50	8:59
	Feb. 1	8:13	5:27	8:06	5:13	8:20	5:16	8:24	4:55	8:55
	Feb. 5	8:07	5:34	8:00	5:20	8:13	5:24	8:16	5:04	8:46
	Feb. 10	7:59	5:43	7:51	5:30	8:03	5:34	8:05	5:15	8:35
	Feb. 15	7:50	5:52	7:42	5:39	7:53	5:44	7:54	5:27	8:22
	Feb. 20	7:40	6:01	7:31	5:48	7:43	5:54	7:42	5:38	8:09
	Feb. 25	7:30	6:10	7:21	5:58	7:32	6:03	7:29	5:49	7:56

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Hinton		Lac La Biche		Lethbridge		Peace River		Red Deer		Whitecourt	
Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
6:59	8:40	6:34	8:20	6:46	8:15	6:53	8:44	6:46	8:23	6:50	8:34
7:06	8:31	6:42	8:10	6:52	8:07	7:00	8:34	6:53	8:14	6:58	8:24
7:15	8:19	6:51	7:58	7:00	7:56	7:10	8:21	7:01	8:02	7:06	8:12
7:23	8:06	7:00	7:45	7:07	7:45	7:20	8:07	7:09	7:51	7:15	7:59
7:32	7:54	7:09	7:32	7:14	7:34	7:30	7:54	7:18	7:39	7:24	7:47
7:41	7:42	7:19	7:19	7:22	7:23	7:40	7:41	7:26	7:27	7:33	7:34
7:50	7:30	7:28	7:07	7:29	7:12	7:50	7:27	7:34	7:15	7:43	7:22
7:51	7:27	7:30	7:04	7:31	7:10	7:52	7:25	7:36	7:13	7:44	7:19
7:59	7:18	7:37	6:54	7:37	7:02	8:00	7:14	7:43	7:04	7:52	7:10
8:08	7:06	7:47	6:42	7:45	6:51	8:10	7:01	7:51	6:52	8:01	6:58
8:17	6:54	7:57	6:30	7:53	6:41	8:21	6:48	8:00	6:41	8:11	6:46
8:26	6:43	8:07	6:18	8:00	6:31	8:31	6:36	8:09	6:30	8:20	6:34
8:36	6:32	8:17	6:07	8:09	6:22	8:42	6:24	8:18	6:20	8:30	6:23
8:45	6:22	8:27	5:56	8:17	6:13	8:52	6:12	8:27	6:10	8:40	6:13
8:49	6:18	8:31	5:52	8:20	6:09	8:57	6:08	8:31	6:06	8:44	6:08
8:56	6:11	8:39	5:44	8:27	6:03	9:05	5:59	8:38	5:59	8:51	6:01
8:06	5:02	7:49	4:34	7:35	4:55	8:16	4:49	7:47	4:51	8:01	4:52
8:15	4:54	7:59	4:26	7:43	4:49	8:27	4:40	7:56	4:43	8:11	4:43
8:24	4:47	8:08	4:18	7:51	4:43	8:37	4:32	8:05	4:37	8:20	4:36
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8:41	4:36	8:26	4:07	8:05	4:34	8:56	4:20	8:21	4:27	8:37	4:25
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9:06	4:42	8:51	4:12	8:28	4:41	9:22	4:23	8:45	4:33	9:03	4:30
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9:02	4:54	8:47	4:24	8:26	4:52	9:17	4:37	8:42	4:44	8:59	4:42
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8:29	5:41	8:11	5:14	7:58	5:33	8:38	5:29	8:10	5:29	8:24	5:31
8:19	5:50	8:01	5:24	7:50	5:41	8:27	5:41	8:01	5:39	8:14	5:41
8:09	6:00	7:50	5:34	7:42	5:50	8:16	5:52	7:51	5:48	8:04	5:51
7:59	6:10	7:39	5:45	7:33	5:58	8:04	6:03	7:41	5:57	7:53	6:01
7:48	6:20	7:28	5:55	7:23	6:07	7:52	6:14	7:31	6:07	7:41	6:11

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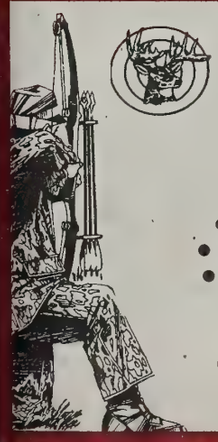
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Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	316, 337
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336
	Antlered	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	348
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	338
		■ S1 - O24	■ O25 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 308
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330
	Antlerless	A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	352, 353*, 355
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	357
	Antlerless (calf only)	A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	354
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	359, 360
Elk	Antlered (3-point or larger)[2]	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O24	O25 - N30	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
		S1 - O31	N1 - N30	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	340, 342, 344*
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	330, 352
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - D20	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	334, 336
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20	318, 324, 332
		S1 - O24	■ O25 - N20 ■ N21 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2012	312, 314
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2012	346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N25 ■ N26 - D20 ■ J1 - J20, 2012	320, 322
			■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2012	337, 338*, 348
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20	353, 354, 355, 356
Trophy Sheep[3]	Resident		S7 - O31	302[4], 303, 306, 308

Black Bear and Cougar Seasons – See pages 59 and 60.

* The special licence season for antlerless moose in WMU 353 and antlerless elk in WMUs 338 and 344 applies only to a portion of the WMU.

1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence will be issued with 2 tags and is valid only in WMUs 300, 310-314, 322-357 and 360.

2 See page 40 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

3 Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 37.

4 WMU 302 is open only for full-curl rams.

Additional hunting opportunities in the Foothills WMUs:

- WMU 300 Elk Special Licence and Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence. Refer to page 61 for season dates or to the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet for further details.



Mountain WMUs (400 Series)

Government of Alberta

Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.

General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2011 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer[1]	Antlered and Antlerless	S8 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S8 - N30		410
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434
		S1 - S23	N1 - N15	400, 402
		A25 - S16	N1 - N15	429
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S8 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S1 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
		S1 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 432, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	S8 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406
		S8 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31	412, 414
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	429
		S8 - S23	■ S24 - N30	408
		■ S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S8 - N30		410
	Antlered (6-point or larger)[2] and Antlerless	S8 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
	Antlered (6-point or larger)[2]	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 428, 430
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 426, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered (3-point or larger)[2]	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	429
		S1 - S16	S17 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	S1 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	438*, 439, 441*, 444*
Goat	Not Applicable		■ S10 - O31	440, 442, 444
			■ S17 - O31	400

Big Game Seasons in MOUNTAIN WMUs continued on next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Trophy Sheep[5]	Resident	S7 - O31		410
		■ S8 - N30		410
			■ A25 - S23 ■ S24 - O31	437
			■ N1 - N10 ■ N11 - N20 ■ N21 - N30	438[8]
			A25 - O31	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444[3], 445
			■ A25 - O31	444[4], 446
			S7 - O31	400[6], 402, 404, 406, 408
		■ N1 - N30		408 (west of Highway 40)
	Non-resident and Non-resident Alien[7]	■ S7 - N30		410
			■ S1 - O15	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444[3], 445

Black Bear and Cougar Seasons – See pages 59 and 60.

* The draw season for antlerless elk in WMU 438, 441 and 444 applies only to a portion of the WMU. See draw booklet for maps.

1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence will be issued with 2 tags and is valid only in WMUs 436-446.

2 See page 38 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

3 The season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion south of the Beaverdam Road.

4 The draw season for trophy sheep in WMU 444 applies only to the portion north of the Beaverdam Road.

5 Hunting of sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for trophy and non-trophy sheep on page 35.

6 WMU 400 is open only for full-curl rams.

7 These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained Trophy Sheep Special Licences through a Class S Outfitter-guide or through a draw (Non-resident [Canadians] only).

8 The draw season for trophy sheep is valid in Area 438C (See ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws Booklet***).

Additional hunting opportunities in the Mountain WMUs:

- Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence, Trophy Sheep Special Licence (portion of WMU 408 lying west of Highway 40 or in WMU 446 and that portion of WMU 444 north of Beaverdam Road or in WMU 438C). Refer to page 61 for season dates or to the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet for further details.

BIG GAME SEASONS

Boreal WMUs (500 Series & 841)

Government of Alberta ■



Archery Only Seasons are those where only a bow and arrow may be used to hunt.
General Seasons are those where either a firearm, cross-bow or a bow and arrow may be used.

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2011 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet for details.

Bison – In the area west of highway 35 and north of the Chinchaga River and the Keg River Metis Settlement, bison is a protected species. No one is allowed to hunt bison in this area, except under the authority of a Bison Special Licence.

Note: It is a mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer harvested from specific WMUs for CWD testing and research purposes. See page 3, 29 and 68 for details.

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer[1]	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	521, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537

Big Game Seasons in MOUNTAIN WMUs continued on page 58

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Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer[1]	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31[6]	O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	500
			N1 - D20	
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	522, 526, 527, 535, 537
			S17 - N30	841
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N7	522
			N1 - N30	841
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	501, 502, 504, 505, 507, 508, 509, 510
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	537
	Antlered	A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	503, 506
			S17 - N30	841
		S1 - O31[6]	■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	500
			■ N1 - D20	
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D20	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
	Antlerless	S1 - O31[4, 6]	O15 – O31[5] (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	500
			N1 - D20[5]	
Moose	Antlered and Antlerless	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 509
		■ S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	507, 508
		S1 - O31[6]	■ O15 – O31 (Primitive Weapon – muzzle loader, shotgun, cross-bow, bow & arrow)	500
			■ N1 - N30	
	Antlered		■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	841
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 536, 541, 542, 544
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	505, 510
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - N30[2]	531, 532, 534, 539, 540
	Antlerless (calf only)	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	505, 510
		■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
Elk	Antlered (6-point or larger)[3]	S1 - O31	■ N1 - N30	509
	Antlered (3-point or larger)[3]	S1 - O31	N1 - N30	504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 510, 511
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	520, 521, 522, 523, 525, 526, 527

Big Game Seasons in MOUNTAIN WMUs continued on next page

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2012	520, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20	504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		S1 - O31	■ N1 - D20 ■ D21 - J20, 2012	511
Black Bear and Cougar Seasons – See pages 59 and 60.				

1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence will be issued with 2 tags and is valid only in WMUs 500-503, 505, 507-531 and 534-544.

2 If hunting with an Outfitter-Guide, hunters should note these WMUs are split into two seasons: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.

3 See page 40 for description of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

4 This season applies to licence holders of a Mule Deer Licence and/or a Supplemental Antlerless Mule Deer Licence.

5 This season applies to licence holders of a Supplemental Antlerless Mule Deer Licence.

6 Bowhunters should be aware that near the end of this season, a primitive weapon season is occurring at the same time.

COUGAR SEASONS

Fall Season

This season is open only to holders of a resident cougar licence. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season, and hunters may harvest one cougar of either sex.

Winter Season

During this season, cougar may be hunted by holders of a resident cougar licence, non-resident cougar licence, or cougar special licence. The use of dogs is allowed. The cougar season in specific WMUs may close prior to the closing date on this table. There is a male quota and a female quota. If either the male quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached, the season will remain open until the other quota is filled. Before hunting cougar in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open by calling the toll-free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly and by calling after 4:30 p.m., hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.

It is unlawful to:

- allow the skin of any cougar to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. See exemption for salvaging skin on page 32 – Access for Control of Livestock Predation.
- hunt a female cougar accompanied by a cougar kitten with spotted fur, or a cougar kitten with spotted fur.

Use of Predator Calls and Bait

Cougar may be hunted using mouth or hand operated calls. The use of electronic calls and bait are prohibited for hunting cougar.

More information on cougar management, including a map of hunting areas, is available at mywildalberta.com.

ATTENTION: ALL RESIDENT COUGAR HUNTERS!

If you purchase a cougar licence for the fall season, it can be used for the winter season

ATTENTION COUGAR HUNTERS!

If possible, cougars should be brought in for registration in an unfrozen condition so the premolar tooth can be removed.
It is also helpful to prop the jaw open with a stick before rigor sets in.

ATTENTION BEAR AND COUGAR HUNTERS!

Trichinosis – To prevent possible trichinosis, a parasitic infection, bear and cougar meat should be thoroughly cooked before it is consumed by humans or pets.

Cougar Season	SEASON		WMUs Note: in WMUs 102-166 big game hunting is prohibited on Sundays.
	Archery Only	General	
Fall (Use of dogs prohibited) Residents Only	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30		212, 248, 410
		Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 357, 358, 359, 360, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 508, 514, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
Winter	Dec. 1, 2011 – Feb. 29, 2012		410
		Dec. 1, 2011 – Feb. 29, 2012	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 505, 507, 509, 510, 511, 512, 515, 516, 517

BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Black Bear Baiting

Baiting of black bears is permitted in the following WMUs: **322, 330-338, 348, 358-360, 500-507, 509, 510, 512-520, 522, 523, 529-536, 539-542 and portions of WMUs 320, 324, 357, 521, 526, 528 and 544** (check with local Fish and Wildlife Division offices, page 16). However, the following restrictions also apply:

1) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of occupied dwellings. Owners and occupants of dwellings are exempt from this restriction if they have permission to bait from the owners or occupants of all other dwellings within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the bait. Other persons may also bait within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of an occupied dwelling if the bait has been authorized in writing by the owners or occupants of that dwelling and all other dwellings within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the bait.

2) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of provincial parks that are not designated as Wildland Provincial Parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites.

3) Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name, WIN, Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit number, or Big Game Guide Designation Number.

4) Each bait must be posted with surrounding signs to warn other people of its presence.

5) Baiting is restricted to the open season and the preceding two weeks in each specific WMU. Contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16) for legal land descriptions or more information.

Hunters are reminded that Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Livestock Diseases Act* and the *Public Health Act* apply to baiting situations. Any livestock dying other than through proper slaughter for human consumption must be disposed of in prescribed ways and may not be used for baiting bears. Containers or wrappings made of paper, cardboard, plastic or other materials should not be left at bait sites. For the safety of others, baits should not be placed near active work sites (e.g., tree planting locations) and all bait sites must be cleaned immediately after the bear season.

Supplemental Black Bear Licences

Supplemental Black Bear Licences are available in the following WMUs: **224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.**

It is unlawful to:

- allow the skin of any bear to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled, or abandoned. See exception for salvaging skin on page 32 - Access for Control of Livestock Predation.
- hunt a black bear under the age of one year or a female black bear accompanied by a cub under the age of one year.

ATTENTION: All Black Bear and Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Hunters

If you purchase one of these licences for the spring season, it can be used for the following fall of the same calendar year. This applies for any of the following: Wildlife Certificate, Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]), Black Bear Special Licence (Non-resident [Canadian] or Non-Resident Alien), Supplemental Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]) or a Non-Resident (Canadian)/Non-Resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence.

DON'T DISCARD IT!
It can be used for the following fall season.

Type	SEASON		WMUs
	Archery Only	General	
Fall 2011	Aug. 25 – Aug. 31	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544
	Aug. 25 – Sept. 16	Sept. 17 – Nov. 30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 429
	Sept. 1 – Sept. 23	Sept. 24 – Nov. 30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30		212
	Sept. 8 – Nov. 30		410
		Sept. 1 – Nov. 30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 400, 402, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		Sept. 8 – Nov. 30	404, 406, 408
		Sept. 17 – Nov. 30	841
Spring 2012 (Requires a new year licence)	Apr. 1 – May 31		212, 410
		Apr. 1 – May 15	404, 406, 408, 841
		Apr. 1 – May 31	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 348, 400, 402, 429, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		Apr. 1 – June 15	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 541, 542, 544

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LICENCE DRAW HUNTS

Season Dates And Locations (refer to page 15 for month abbreviations)

Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence

Areas 416, 418A*, 418B*, 420, 422A*, 426A*, 430A*, 430B*, 432, 434A*, 434B*, 437, 438A*, 438C*, 438D*, 440, 442, 444, 445A*, 445B*, 446 S10 - O31
Areas (402 – 303, 306)*, 402 – 308*, 402A*, 406A*, 406B*, 408A*, 408B* S10 - O31
Area 410 S10 - N30

* These areas comprise either a portion of one WMU or all of one WMU and a portion of an adjacent WMU. See descriptions in the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet.

Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Bow and arrow or muzzle loader D1 - D3
Rifle D5 - D7, D8 - D10, D12 - D14, D15 - D17

Antelope Archery Special Licence

WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S7 - S24

Trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S26 - O1
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O17 - O22

Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 O20 - O22, O24 - O26
WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 S29 - O1, O6 - O8

Either Sex Elk Special Licence

WMUs 116, 118, 119 and 624 Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, N1 - N25
WMUs 116, 118 and 119 Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, N29, 2011 - J6, 2012
WMUs 728 and 730 Bow and arrow or muzzle loader D1 - D3, Rifle D5 - D17

WMU 300 Elk Special Licence S7 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - F21, 2012

Bison Special Licence – WMUs 536 and 539 excluding Core Bison Protection Area J1 - F28, 2012

Refer to the ***2011 Alberta Hunting Draws*** booklet for details on what seasons will be open and how to apply for special licences.

OTHER SPECIES

NOTE: It is unlawful, with the following exceptions, to allow the pelt of any furbearing animal to be wasted:

It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of 1) furbearing animals taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife, or 2) coyotes harvested, by residents, outside of public lands in the Green Area.

Timber Wolf – A Resident may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2012, or until June 15, 2012 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2012.

A Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence may hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2012, or until June 15, 2012 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2012.

Coyote – A Resident may, without a licence and on land to which he or she has the right of access, hunt (but not trap) coyote at all times of the year throughout the province, except as follows:

1) on public lands in the Green Area, only from October 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012, and
2) in Camp Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730), only from January 2, 2012 to February 29, 2012.

See page 32 for information on coyote hunting for control of livestock predation.

Subject to the exception (*) below, a Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a valid Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence may hunt coyote on lands to which he or she has the right of access at all times of the year throughout the province – except on public lands in the Green Area where the season is from October 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012.

*Exception: if a big game season (other than a cougar season) is open in the area he or she is hunting, then a Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a big game licence may hunt coyote only in the WMU or area where their big game licence is valid.

Baiting for Wolves and Coyotes – On public land, hunters cannot use bait for hunting wolves or coyotes except a) from Dec. 1 to Mar. 31, or b) during an open season for the hunting of black bear where the setting out, use and possession of bait for the purpose of hunting black bear is prohibited.

Each wolf or coyote bait site must have a readily observable sign showing the owner's name, WIN, Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit Number, or Big Game Guide's Designation Number.

These baiting restrictions do not apply to WMUs 102-166, to persons hunting under authority of a trapping licence, or on any private land.

Red Fox, Red Squirrel and Badger – A Resident may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) red fox, red squirrel and hunt badger on any privately owned land to which he or she has the right of access.

Bobcat – A resident may, without a licence from November 1 - February 28, 2011, hunt (but not trap) bobcat in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119 and in the portion of WMU 110 that lies east of highway 2 and south of highway 3. The use of dogs is prohibited. All kills must be registered at a Fish and Wildlife office (see page 16).

Other Animals – Porcupine, rabbit, hare, skunk, raccoon and woodchuck may be hunted, but not trapped**, without a licence throughout the province, at all times of the year.

** Some exceptions apply. Please refer to the ***2011 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations***, available in September 2011.

HUNTING WITH CROSS-BOWS

Since the fall season of 2002, cross-bows are no longer "prohibited" for hunting wildlife in Alberta, although there may be federal licensing requirements. See page 20 for federal government contact information.
Cross-bows may not be used to hunt big game during archery-only seasons. The only exception is for an eligible handicapped hunter who has obtained a cross-bow licence.
A Bowhunting Permit, as required by bowhunters using conventional archery equipment, is **not** required by persons who are hunting with cross-bows.
In accordance with federal regulations, cross-bows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.
Persons hunting big game with a cross-bow must use an authorized cross-bow and arrow (bolt). An authorized cross-bow is one that requires 100 pounds or more of pull to draw the string or cable to its cocked position. There is no restriction on arrow length however it must have a tip as described under the heading "Bowhunting" on page 41-42.

GAME BIRD REGULATIONS

Since the fall of 2008 there is no longer a prohibition on the Sunday hunting of game birds (migratory and upland).

Please Remember

Federal regulations prohibit the use of lead shot or cross-bows for hunting waterfowl.

All birds are protected except the following: Starlings, Crows, Pigeons, House (English) Sparrows, Magpies, Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Ravens (hunted on private land by residents) and any other birds for which an open season has been declared by the regulations as indicated in this summary.

Falconry Hunting

Falconers are permitted to hunt upland game birds and migratory birds, by means of falconry, in all areas of the province except in national parks and those restricted areas identified on pages 33 through 37.

To hunt any game birds by means of falconry, a Resident holder of a Recreational Falconry Permit requires a WIN Card and a Wildlife Certificate, plus

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge or ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant, or
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

To hunt any game birds by means of falconry, a Non-resident (Canadian) hunter requires an Import permit, a WIN Card and a Wildlife Certificate, plus

- either a Game Bird Licence or 3-Day Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge or ptarmigan;
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence, and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant, or
- either a Game Bird Licence or a 3-Day Game Bird Licence, and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

To hunt any game birds by means of falconry, a Non-resident Alien hunter requires an Import permit, a WIN Card and a Non-Resident Alien Wildlife Certificate, plus

- an Upland Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge or ptarmigan;
- an Upland Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant, or
- a 6-Day Waterfowl Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl.

Seasons

The open season to hunt upland game birds by means of falconry is from August 15, 2011 to March 31, 2012 (Sundays included). Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (Sundays included) (page 63).

IN ALBERTA SAGE GROUSE ARE PROTECTED!

Sage grouse are listed as an endangered species in Alberta. If you hunt upland game birds within the range of sage grouse, be sure your target is not a sage grouse.

Bowhunting

Hunters wishing to hunt game birds with a bow and arrow, other than a cross-bow, require a Bowhunting Permit in addition to the other applicable licences.

Designated Pheasant Release Sites

The operation of the pheasant hatchery at Brooks was privatized in April 2000 with a non-government partnership, the Canadian Pheasant Company. For more information about the pheasant release program, please contact the Canadian Pheasant Company (403-362-4122).
During the open season for male pheasants, the hunting of game birds, including pheasants, is not permitted in the following designated pheasant release sites after 2:00 p.m. on any day, except Saturdays.

WMU

152 Millicent Buck for Wildlife Project (NE19 and 30-20-13-W4)
206 Buffalo Lake Buck for Wildlife Project (9 and SW10-40-21-W4)
210 Bigelow Buck for Wildlife Project (3, E9, SW10 & LSD 12 and 13 of 10-34-25-W4)

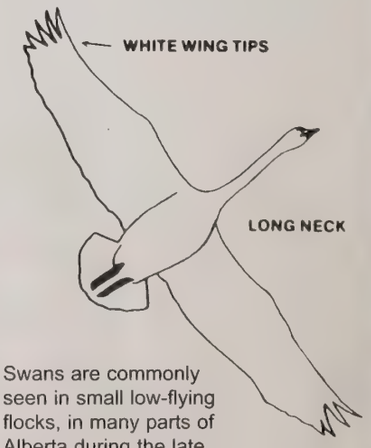
Special Hunting Areas

In WMUs 212 and 248 the hunting of game birds is only permitted with bows and arrows, cross-bows, shotguns or a falconry bird. Cross-bows cannot be used to hunt migratory birds.

In WMU 410 the hunting of game birds is permitted only with bows and arrows or a falconry bird.



SNOW GOOSE



Swans are commonly seen in small low-flying flocks, in many parts of Alberta during the late fall.

SWAN (Do Not Shoot)

GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

Where a dash (-) is used in the following table, the dash is to be interpreted as including all WMUs that have numbers falling between the two WMU listed.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	WMUs	Season Date	Requirements
Snow or Ross's Geese	20 combined	60 combined	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 936	S1 - D16	(a) of which not more than five may be white-fronted geese for residents and non-resident Canadians.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
			841	S15 - D16	
Canada or White-fronted Geese	8 combined (a,b)	24 combined (c,d)	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 936	S1 - D16	(b) of which not more than four may be white-fronted geese for non-resident aliens.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
			841	S15 - D16	
Ducks, Coots and Snipe	8 (e) each species	24 (f) each species	200-208, 216-260, 316-544, 936	S1 - D16	(c) of which not more than fifteen may be white-fronted geese for residents and non-resident Canadians.
			102-166, 210-214, 300-314	S8 - D21	
			841	S15 - D16	
Male Pheasant	2	6	200-260, 350-360, 400, 402, 412-544	S1 - N30	(d) of which not more than twelve may be white-fronted geese for non-resident aliens.
			102-166, 300-349	O15 - N30	
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - N30	
Ruffed Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - N30	(e) of which not more than four ducks may be pintail.
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - N30	
			728, 730 (Camp Wainwright)	S3 - S5	(f) of which not more than twelve ducks may be pintail.
Spruce Grouse	5	15	102-402, 412-544	S1 - N30	(g) may harvest with a special licence only.
			404-410, 841, 936	S8 - N30	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	15	102-246, 252-256, 300-314, 334, 400-402, 518-520, 524, 525, 528-542, 936	O1 - O31	
			728, 730 (Camp Wainwright)	S3 - S5	
Ptarmigan	5	15	500-544	S1 - J15	
			300-402, 412-446	S1 - N30	
			404-410	S8 - N30	
Blue Grouse	5	15	300-402, 412-446	S1 - N30	
			404-410	S8 - N30	
Gray Partridge	5	15	102-360, 500-544	S1 - N30	
			936	S8 - N30	
Merriam's Turkey	1 (g)	1 (g)	300-308, 400, 402	■ Ma1 - Ma31, 2012	

ATTENTION WMU 936 HUNTERS: Hunters (including bowhunters) require a Firearms Discharge Permit to hunt in WMU 936. Self-registration discharge permits are no longer available. All hunters for WMU 936 are required to attend a safety orientation prior to receiving their discharge permit. Please contact the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Recreation Area office, (780-922-3293) in order to receive information regarding orientation dates and requirements for obtaining your discharge permit.

ATTENTION WMU 728 & 730 (Camp Wainwright) HUNTERS: WARNING: Hazards in the form of unexploded military munitions may exist throughout Camp Wainwright. Hunters are advised not to touch any foreign objects. **Camp Wainwright officials have advised that all hunters using shotguns to hunt game birds at Camp Wainwright must use non-toxic shot. Lead shot is not allowed.**

WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS

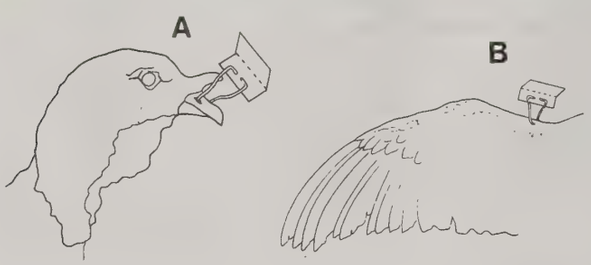
The first Saturday and Sunday in September are designated as Waterfowler Heritage Days in WMUs 102-166, 210-214 and 300-314. Within the applicable WMUs, youth (age 12-17) may hunt waterfowl on these dates without a licence (provincial or federal) provided they are qualified to do so (see Licensing requirements for first-time hunters, page 20 and 21) and are accompanied by an adult migratory game bird hunting permit holder. The adult permit holder may not have in their possession or use a firearm, or accompany more than 2 minors at one time. The youth can only hunt waterfowl species for which there will be an open season in that WMU. Regular bag limits and possession limits apply.

Merriam's Turkey Special Licences are issued through a draw. Licences will be valid in all of WMU 300-308, 400 and 402. The season is from May 1 to May 31, 2012 with a bag limit of one bearded Merriam's turkey per special licence holder. Hunters interested in this hunt must have applied in the draw by June 23, 2011.

Each Merriam's turkey harvested must be tagged

- immediately after the bird is killed, and
- in the manner described below with the paper tag supplied with each licence. All instructions on the back of the paper tag must be followed.

Merriam's Turkey Tagging Instructions



Tagging Instructions: (A) place wire through the nares, or (B) through the patagium between the tendon and the bones of the wing.

Tags must remain affixed until the carcass is delivered to

- the usual residence of the person who killed it, and is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
- to a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

Please refer to items 2, 12 and 13 of Prohibitions, Game Bird section (page 19) for additional requirements concerning weapons and evidence of sex and species for Merriam's turkey.

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

The Fish and Wildlife Division will be conducting a hunter harvest survey after the fall hunting season to obtain information required for turkey management. Your cooperation and assistance in collecting and providing the necessary information is required. We request that you keep track of the number of days hunted in each WMU.

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Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease



Description of Birds and General Behaviour

Adult males weigh 6.5 to 9 kilograms (14 to 20 pounds) and adult females weigh 3.5 to 4.5 kilograms (8 to 10 pounds). The plumage is an iridescent bronze colour but reflected sunlight can give the appearance of green, blue, red and purple shades. The wings and tail feathers are barred with alternating light and dark bands. Females appear lighter brown because their body feathers are white or buff tipped while males have black tips.

The head and neck of the gobbler (male) have several features which are lacking in the female. The male has a fleshy growth (wattle) which hangs from the under side of the throat or chin. Males also exhibit fatty growths (caruncles) located on the side and back of the neck and on the lower throat. A fleshy projection above the bill of males (snood, or dew bill) will also distinguish males from females. Another primary difference between males and females is the presence of a pronounced "beard" on the lower neck of the male. This beard consists of a group of coarse feathers resembling a bristly, black rope and may be up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) long. The beard is usually absent or very small in females.



Beards L-R: old male, second-year male, first-year male, old hen

Heads

The non-feathered area of the head and neck of the male may appear to be red, white or blue depending on the turkey's activity. In the spring, when strutting or threatened, a male may exhibit a bright red head; and when frightened, the head may be pale blue. Females exhibit a less colourful grey-brown to grey-blue head.



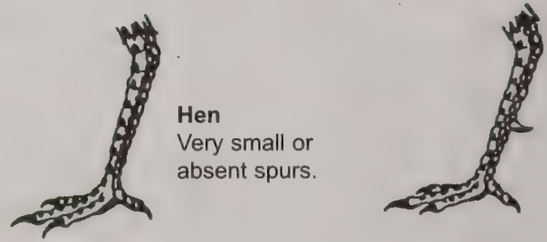
Hen Smaller and blacker than tom. Scattering of short, black, velvety, hair-like feathers.

Tom Bald with narrow band of feathers up back of neck. Colours bright reddish-blue in spring.

Common Characteristics to Differentiate Males and Females

Characteristic	Female	Male
Beard	Very rare, short	Regularly, up to 25cm (10") long
Gobble	Never	Frequently, especially in spring
Head Colour	Grey-brown, grey-blue	Bright turquoise blue, bright red, bright blue, sometimes grayish white

Spurs



Hen Very small or absent spurs.

Tom Obvious spurs.

Merriam's Turkey Draw continued on page 65

Breast Feathers



Hen
White tip.



Tom
Black tip.

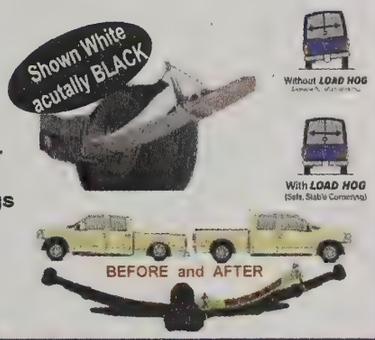
It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife or **discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

Sunrise/Sunset Table (Mountain Daylight Time)

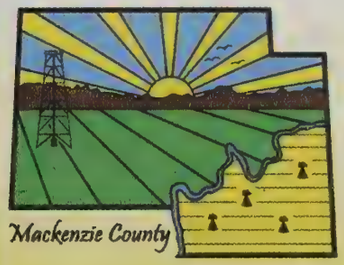
Date	Sunrise	Sunset
May 01, 2012	6:13 a.m.	8:54 p.m.
May 05, 2012	6:06 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
May 10, 2012	5:48 a.m.	9:07 p.m.
May 15, 2012	5:41 a.m.	9:14 p.m.
May 20, 2012	5:45 a.m.	9:21 p.m.
May 25, 2012	5:39 a.m.	9:27 p.m.
May 30, 2012	5:35 a.m.	9:32 p.m.



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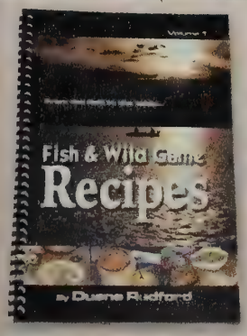
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Marked Wildlife

Some species of wildlife are banded, collared or marked by other means in an ongoing effort to gain additional population biology information. You can assist and cooperate in these programs by reporting encounters with any marked animal to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16).

Some of these marked wildlife, as well as certain nuisance animals (e.g., some black bears), may have received drugs for research purposes or to facilitate their capture and handling. Any such animal will be marked with a tag advising that the meat of the animal should not be consumed before contacting the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

Report Waterfowl Leg Bands by Telephone or Internet

All waterfowl leg bands recovered in North America can now be reported by telephoning the toll-free number **1-800-327-BAND** (1-800-327-2263). Calls can be made from anywhere in Canada or the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, operators are only available from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern time, Monday to Friday. After-hours and weekend callers will hear a recorded message requesting they leave their name and daytime telephone number so that the Bird Banding Lab can call them back. Band recovery can also be reported by internet at the website www.reportband.gov. Recovered bands can still be reported by mail or to the nearest office of the Fish and Wildlife Division (page 16) if you do not wish to report the band by telephone or internet.

REPORT A POACHER
www.reportapoacher.com
1-800-642-3800

The **REPORT A POACHER** program provides Albertans with the opportunity to report suspected violations using a toll-free number: **1-800-642-3800** or **#3800 on the TELUS Mobility network** (courtesy TELUS Mobility). The line is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fishing or hunting out of season, night hunting, exceeding bag limits, illegal sale of fish and wildlife and deposit of harmful substances in lakes and rivers are violations that seriously affect fish and wildlife in Alberta. If you see or know of a violation, you should record all information, including

- date
- time
- location
- vehicle licence number
- vehicle description
- description of person(s) involved
- details of violation, and any other details, no matter how insignificant

they may seem. You should then contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or call **1-800-642-3800** as soon as possible.

If the information provided concerns a resource violation and results in the laying of a charge, the reporter may be eligible for a reward. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 16).

Wild Game Public Health Advisory

The wild game public health advisory for the Swan Hills area – originally issued on December 13, 1996, by the Provincial Health Officer – has been revised as a result of more extensive wild game testing. While recent test results confirm that eating wild game from the Swan Hills area poses no immediate threat to human health, it is recommended that individuals limit the amount of wild game eaten.

For more information contact Alberta Health and Wellness at 780-427-7164.



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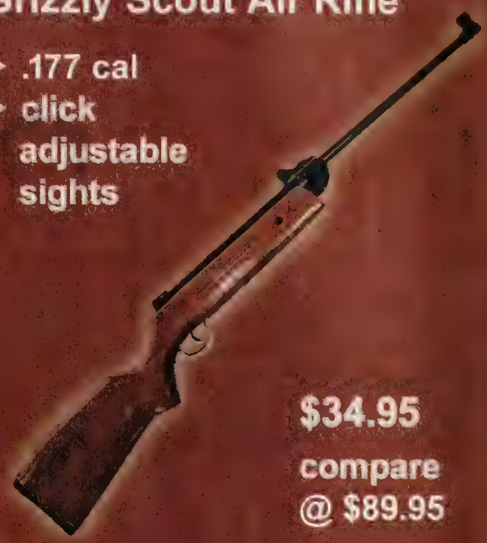






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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND DEER MANAGEMENT

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a chronic degenerative and ultimately fatal prion disease of cervids (primarily deer and elk). It is not known to infect humans. The disease has been found in a few mule deer and white-tailed deer along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border in relatively small portions of WMUs 119, 150, 151, 152, 163, 200, 202, 232, 234, 236, 256, and 728 (see page 29 of this guide for a map of CWD cases in wild deer in Alberta).

Hunters and outfitters play a key role in assisting CWD management by helping to reduce deer numbers and by providing heads from harvested deer for the ongoing CWD surveillance program. Alberta began looking for CWD in wild deer in the hunting seasons in 1998. Since then we have tested over 30,000 heads of hunter-killed wild deer and elk and have found CWD in only 47 of them. Additional cases of CWD (n=47) were found as a result of government control programs implemented in 2005 to 2008.

Landowner quota licences will continue to be available. Resident landowners and/or their immediate family are required to apply for their quota licence through the local Fish and Wildlife office. Once approved they can purchase their licence online or at any licence issuer beginning the following day. Landowner licences will be valid for titled or leased land in WMU 119, 150, 151, 152, 162, 163, 200, 202, 232, 234, 236, 256 and 500.

- Season dates for WMU 150, 151, 162 and 163 are archery only season September 1-October 14, primitive weapon season October 15-October 31, general season November 2-5, November 9-12, November 16-19, November 23-26, November 30-December 3, December 7-10, December 14-17 and from December 19, 2011 to January 14, 2012 (Monday to Saturday only).
- Season dates for WMU 200, 234, 236, 256 and 500 are archery only season September 1-October 14, primitive weapon season October 15-October 31 and general season from November 1, 2011 to January 14, 2012.
- Season dates for WMU 119 are archery only season September 1-November 1, general season November 2-5, November 9-12, November 16-19, November 23-26 and November 28, 2011 to January 14, 2012 (Monday to Saturday only).
- Season dates for WMU 202 and 232 are archery only season September 1-October 31 and general season November 1, 2011 to January 14, 2012.

Once the tags are filled and all three heads submitted, another licence may be purchased (for the same area as the first licence with 3 more tags). The Quota Deer Licence does not count in the maximum licences or combination of licences a hunter may hold.

Note : It is a mandatory requirement to submit the head of all deer harvested in the following WMUs: 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 162, 163, 164, 200, 202, 203, 232, 234, 236, 238, 254, 256, 258, 500, 728, and 730. Antlers and skull plate can be removed from bucks before the head is submitted. For European mounts, keep the top portion of the skull and submit the lower portion including the lower jaw, the tissues at the back of the throat, and the part of the skull that contains the connection between the spinal cord and the brain.

All heads for testing, including the partial skull samples (as above), must have a green CWD label which gives each head a unique identification number. **Be sure to include either GPS or land location as well as WMU and your WIN number for each head.** When available, test results for each head will be accessible online via your WIN number at albertarelm.com.

For more information about CWD, contact your local Fish and Wildlife office or visit srd.alberta.ca.

Deer hunting opportunities have been expanded within the eastern border regions in order to maintain hunting pressure on deer populations and to standardize seasons and opportunities. Check carefully for the changes being implemented in 2011.

BILL OF LADING – WILDLIFE (To be used when transporting wildlife taken by others)

DATE: _____

I _____ address: _____ Ph. # _____
(print hunter's name)

give permission to _____ address: _____ Ph. # _____
(print name of person transporting wildlife)

to transport _____
(description of shipment including sex and species)

date of kill: _____ W.I.N. #: _____ Lic./Tag # _____

taken under authority of my _____
(describe type of hunting licence)

This wildlife is to be transported from _____
(point of origin)

to _____ on _____
(destination) (date)

_____ _____
(signature of hunter) (signature of person transporting the wildlife)

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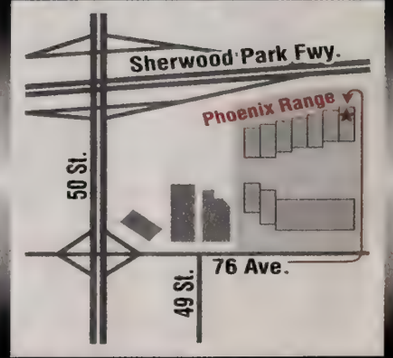
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GENERAL MULE DEER LICENCE

This general licence is valid during the "archery only" season, which precedes the general season. It is valid during the general season in the following WMUs: 316, 339-344, 347, 349-356, 412, 414, 432, 440-446, 511-520, 524, 525, 528-534, 536, 539-544 and 841. This licence is not valid during a season in which a Special Licence is required. In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

SUPPLEMENTAL ANTLERLESS MULE DEER LICENCE

This licence is issued with two tags and is only valid in WMUs 200, 234, 236, 256 and 500. It is a general licence and does not require a draw application.

SUPPLEMENTAL ANTLERLESS WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

This licence is issued with two tags and is only valid in WMUs 200-208, 214-238, 244, 246, 254-258, 300, 310-314, 322-357, 360, 436-446, 500-503, 505, 507-531, 534-544. It is a general licence and does not require a draw application.

YOUTH MULE DEER LICENCE

This general licence is available for resident hunters who are 12-17 years of age and who are eligible to hunt. It is a general licence that is valid during the "archery only" season, which precedes the general season. It is valid during the general season in the following WMUs: 316, 339-344, 347, 349-356, 412, 414, 432, 440-446, 511-520, 524, 525, 528-534, 536, 539-544 and 841. This licence is not valid during a season in which a Special Licence is required. In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

YOUTH WHITE-TAILED DEER LICENCE

This licence is valid for resident hunters who are 12-17 years of age and who are eligible to hunt. It is a general licence and is valid during a general season (archery or rifle). Because it is a general licence, it can not be used during the rifle season in WMUs 404, 406 and 408 (a special licence is required). In the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, special licences are required for all seasons where a small black box is located beside the season date.

SUPPLEMENTAL BLACK BEAR LICENCE

This licence is only valid in WMUs 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.

SPECIAL LICENCES

If you are drawn for a special licence, your draw priority returns to zero and that draw cannot be cancelled. You may not be able to purchase a particular general licence once you have been drawn for a special licence of that same species. Example: if you are drawn for Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered White-tailed Deer or Antlered, Antlerless, or Calf Moose you will not be able to purchase a general licence for that species. If you are drawn for Either Sex Elk, WMU 300 Elk, Antlered or Antlerless Elk, you will not be able to purchase a general elk licence. Resident hunters are able to purchase an elk licence in combination with the WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery and the WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Special Licence. See licence combinations on page 24.



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MESSAGE from the PUBLISHER



Rob Miskosky

The Alberta Hunters of the Year contest once again showed that Alberta is a province to be reckoned with when it comes to producing trophy-class animals.

Kevin Gustafson of Calgary, Joel Nicholson of Redcliff, and Pate Bates of Markerville, Alberta all had excellent 2010 hunting seasons, each harvesting an Alberta trophy that most only dream about.

Last year it was Ryan Hickle's incredible southern Alberta mule deer that captured the Alberta Hunter of the Year honours. However, 2010 saw ends of the province swap, and this time it was a northern Alberta mule deer that took first place, giving Calgary's Kevin Gustafson Alberta Hunter of the Year honours. Kevin's mule deer grossed an eye-popping 207 4/8" before netting a final score of 198 3/8".

Taken near Debolt in WMU 521, Kevin's deer earns him $500 and the honour of being Alberta's 2010 overall champion and Alberta Hunter of the Year. An incredible buck Kevin!

Joel Nicholson of Redcliff, Alberta also showed us why Alberta is well known for producing trophy animals. Joel managed to harvest an incredible bull elk from what has become known as the famous Suffield Herd.

Joel's bull, taken near Hilda in WMU 150, scored 376 6/8", and is definitely world-class.

Pat Bates of Markerville, Alberta also had an excellent 2010 season by harvesting an awesome whitetail buck that grossed and incredible 192 6/8" before netting 180 2/8"—a loss of 12 4/8". Pat's buck was taken near Byemoor in WMU 166. An incredible deer!

Both Pat and Joel earn $250 and along with Kevin get to appear in this year's regulations and in an issue of Alberta Outdoorsmen magazine. Check out these incredible animals and the successful hunters on page 96.

Alberta's hunting regulations are in a constant state of change, and it is up to you, the hunter, to make sure you keep abreast of those changes. In a province as diverse as Alberta, our wildlife managers remain forever vigilant to the needs of the animals we pursue. Their commitment to maintaining wildlife populations cannot be overstated. Along with our enforcement officers and the staff of fish and wildlife offices across the province, hunters need to make sure and tip their hats to these hard-working professionals, whenever, and wherever they meet them. It is often a thankless job, but most certainly, an important one that must be taken with great care.

Good luck everybody!

Pheasants on the Wild Side

by Bob Scammell



It is early June and still raining as I write, but soon after I press "Send" on this article, Beau, my Brittany, and I will likely be off for Brooks and vicinity to assess our chances of some truly challenging hunting for trophy pheasants come October.

"Trophy pheasant" equates to "wild" in our vocabulary, so we like to go scouting about the middle of June to see what the first nesting of wild pheasants has produced.

Prospects are not encouraging, judging from the data available: the annual reports of the private Partners in Habitat Development (PHD), headquartered in the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) offices in Brooks.



Hunting in an ocean of sweet clover.

The 2010 PHD annual report confirms my own spring and fall observations over the past three years. For three straight seasons, up to the winter of 2008, Alberta had probably its highest pheasant numbers since the bonanza years just after the war. The 2010 spring pheasant crowing count showed the lowest average per stop in eight years, and was down 45% from the 2009 results.

Spring crowing counts only reveal the number of male birds in the business of breeding. The informal mid-June counts of Beau and I give us an idea of the extent to which the actual breeding, nesting and hatching have succeeded.

The PHD report notes that long, hard winters greatly contribute to upland bird mortality, and that populations are also adversely affected by cold, wet weather in the spring, especially during the peak hatching period of the first two weeks of June, which increases nest abandonment and increased mortality of hens and chicks. The PHD report concludes: "Given the demanding climactic conditions in which upland birds have existed in since the winter of 2008, it is not surprising that numbers seem to be trending to the low end of the population cycle."



Back in the bonanza pheasant years just after the war, my dad would hunt with some of the many Americans who would flood into Brooks and the EID each pheasant season. Occasionally a hunter wanted a trophy bird to stuff with something other than sage and onions. At least sixty years ago, I remember going with my Dad and a trophy rooster seeker to a high point overlooking an irrigation drain flowing into the Red Deer River. Pointing down there, dad pronounced, "There's ten, twenty-year-old roosters with long tails and spurs down there." There were. It is a lesson I've never forgotten: if you want trophy pheasants, you want wild pheasants that live long lives because of the thick cover they live in, which protects them from predators and from all but the absolute worst winters and springs.

Most modern Alberta pheasant hunters have no idea how to find big, wild birds. They have been spoiled by hunting planted hatchery birds at the designated pheasant release sites.

To find occasional wild birds, they believe, you need the willows beside leaky canals and smaller ditches beside grain fields with weedy corners. But the leaks have been plugged by lining canals and buried pipes have replaced many smaller ditches to conserve irrigation water, and "clean farming" has eliminated most weedy corners. In fairness, in recent years PHD has done much—always at the request of landowners—to restore wildlife habitat on private land, even install "tricklers" on buried pipe, to replicate the good habitat effects of leaky ditches.



Hunters should know that, in Alberta, good wild pheasant country is also rattlesnake country.

But Beau and I will be going to the fringe areas of irrigation, where little grain, but mega tonnage of alfalfa is grown, country where many of today's hunters will tell you there might be Huns and a few sharp-tails, but there can't possibly be pheasants.

We'll probably start by checking some favourite spots on the magnificent 600,000 acres of EID-owned grazing lands that are open to recreational users who follow simple rules, such as no camping, no fires, drive only on designated trails and don't bother the cattle. We'll check in at the EID offices in Brooks; get the brochure with a map. Then we'll look at the willow and bulrush (tule) fringes of dozens of sloughs, along several irrigation drains and creeks, and the thorny river bottoms of both the Red Deer and Bow Rivers. We never flush a lot of pheasants on the EID wild lands, but the ones we do are worth the hard hunting, always big, old cunning wild birds.

continued on next page

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Always check any cottonwood trees that may be in the vicinity.



A creek or drain back into a bigger river—prime cover for big, old wild pheasants.

We'll be checking the same sorts of places on the private land of some kindly ranchers who welcome an old pheasant hunter and his dog in June, then again in October and November. We'll particularly look at places and species of cover where my dogs and I have always found wild pheasants over the years, such as abandoned building sites, especially with derelict machinery, and we'll always check out any cottonwood trees on the horizon. There are two cottonwoods in particular, rising in the midst of a willow jungle with a huge bulrush patch on the far side and long prairie grass and old ditches on the near side. The several venerable old roosters that live there occasionally jump up in the cottonwoods, curse us and our dogs, and so far have always given us the slip in ways that leave us roaring with laughter.

We never fail to check out certain surroundable, patches of bulrushes, reed canary grass, or sweet clover. Over my long pheasant hunting life, these three species of cover have all provided memorable mass flushes of pheasants and amazing misses from flustered shooters.

On a recent hunt, Jake Reimer and I scratched down one big rooster out of a dozen pheasants that flushed from a sweet clover patch, who became a "runner" in his sagebrush escape cover until Beau caught him. Nobody ever said that hunting trophy pheasants was easy; it is seldom just shooting, always tough slogging, challenging, and frequently funny, which is why wild pheasant hunters love it so.

A major benefit is the flavour of pheasants that have been on a wild diet since exiting the egg. Roasted, old roosters can be tough and dry. My mother created a prize-winning recipe for tough old birds and, as she always did with her game recipes, she made them easy for men to cook. Here it is:

OLD PHEASANT FRICASSEE WITH DUMPLINGS

Start by coarsely chopping two four-inch diameter onions, four celery stalks, including leaves, and half a sweet red pepper and cutting four six-inch carrots into 1/4 inch slices. Set cut vegetables aside in a bowl.

Cut two big old roosters into six pieces each, and then brown them in butter and olive oil in a large Dutch oven, roaster, or ovenproof casserole. Set browned pieces aside on a warm plate.

Pour off oil from the Dutch oven, etc. Pour in 20 oz. of salt- reduced canned chicken broth, bring to a boil and deglaze the pot by stirring and scraping loose the good bits from the browning process.

Add the browned pheasant pieces, all the chopped vegetables and two bay leaves to the Dutch oven, etc., cover, and bake at 300-325 degrees for two hours.

After two hours, add 20 oz. of salt-reduced, canned, cream of mushroom soup and two cups of half-and-half cream. Cover and return to the oven for an hour. (Mom insisted on Campbell's for the broth and mushroom soup, even though they didn't do reduced salt in her day.)

In a bowl, mix half a teaspoon of dried thyme into 2 cups of Bisquick and just before the hour is up for the pot in the oven, mix 3/4 cup of milk into the dry ingredients and mix to get as smooth a batter as you can.

After the hour, drop heaping tablespoonfuls of the dumpling batter onto the bubbling gravy, cover and return to the oven for 20 minutes.

Serves six hunters famished from hunting the main ingredient: wild old trophy pheasants.

A glass or three of a dry white wine will bring back the memories of great hunts and, as once at my Stump Ranch, a guest got dewy-eyed remembering he hadn't had dumplings since his mom died, and wondered if we could mix up another batch to cook on the remaining gravy. ■





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Great Big Honkers



by Claudio Ongaro

If there is one thing I know for sure, it's that shooting a limit of big honkers truly is the pinnacle of waterfowling in North America.

In Alberta, we have very liberal limits on big honkers. The limit is eight geese per hunter, all of which can be Canada geese. That's a tall order when it comes to filling out a bag limit on these very wary birds.

First off, let me say that shooting a limit of big honkers is not a prerequisite to having a great hunt and enjoying time in the field pursuing them. If you're an experienced goose hunter, I hope you'll find a few nuggets of truth in these words that you can put towards bettering your next goose hunt. If you are a novice or struggling with getting these biggest of geese into your decoys with their wings locked and legs hanging, read on as this will be the year that goose hunting becomes easy for you.

It really is quite simple. The first thing you must remember is that these big birds only have one purpose during the fall, and that is to fatten up on a rich, grain field diet as they migrate southward. They need water, grit, and food, that's it.

The other thing to remember is that they are very habitual. This means they will continue visiting the same food and water until they are disturbed, and it usually takes gunfire to move them off a pattern or the food source simply disappears due to over feeding. I always tell my guides each fall that if geese land somewhere more than once, we should be able to put them in front of our hunters. We look for a repetitive pattern. Geese will roost on water at night and during the midday hours and feed in the early morning and again an hour or two before dark. This is your spotting window of opportunity and the biggest reason for success or failure on your next goose hunt. If you can watch them come into a field and feed contently at least twice, there is a very good chance they will be back. Now you are set.

If you find them in the morning and can secure permission, it is best to watch them once more and then hunt them the next morning or afternoon.



Success in the field comes from all aspects of preparation.

Put your birds to bed. This means you stay and watch them until they leave back to the roost water on their own accord. This does two things: it lets others know you are watching the hunt and will be hunting it on the next feeding and, it ensures that you know where the birds roosted the night before they are to be hunted.

This is Alberta and there is water everywhere, especially this year. Big honkers are generally lazy and will stop short on a full belly to roost close to a food source. This spells disaster for you in the morning when your guns go off 'busting' the roost or alerting the geese to your location. They will then avoid your field and you do not want this to happen.

So now you have it dialed in. Permission… check! Birds fed more than once in the same spot… check! You put them to bed… check! You know where they roosted and it's over a couple of kilometres away… check! Believe me, the rest is the easy part.

Setting up your decoys properly and getting undercover is key. I have said this a thousand times to my clients, in articles, and to people at my seminars on goose hunting—the best-concealed hunters will not succeed if their decoys are not set out properly, and the best decoy spread will not decoy big honkers if the hunters are not concealed well enough. There is absolutely no margin for error here if you want flight after flight of big honkers doing, what we call, the 'back stroke' fifteen yards off the end of your toes.

In a perfect world, you want to be concealed in laydown blinds and have about eight-dozen full-bodied decoys at your disposal. Ideally, the laydown blinds should be dressed with combine chaff right from that field. Set them up in a line perpendicular to the wind and then angle the blinds to the right for right-handed shooters and to the left for left-handed shooters, placing your blinds about two metres apart. This allows you to shoot down wind of your position and keep your muzzles from ever pointing at each other—you can never be safe enough when afield.

continued on page 78



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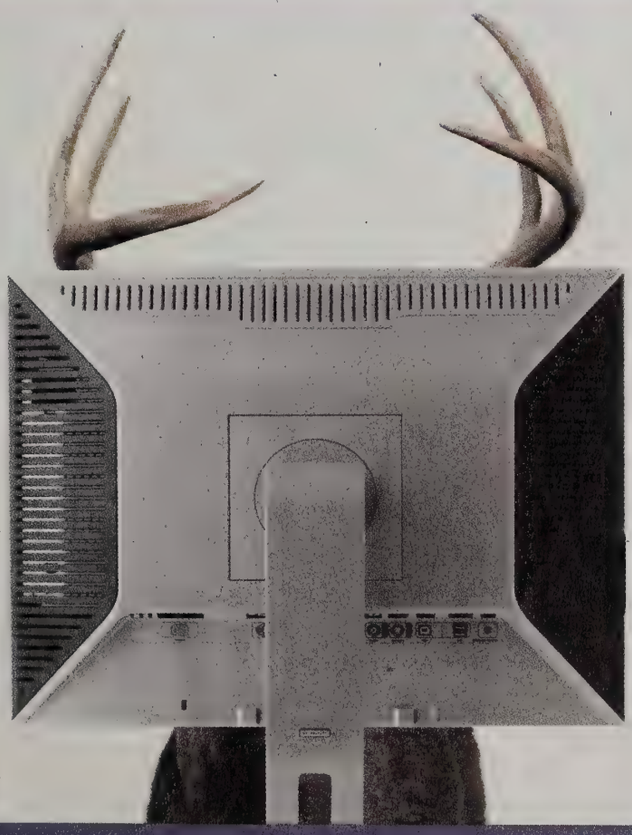


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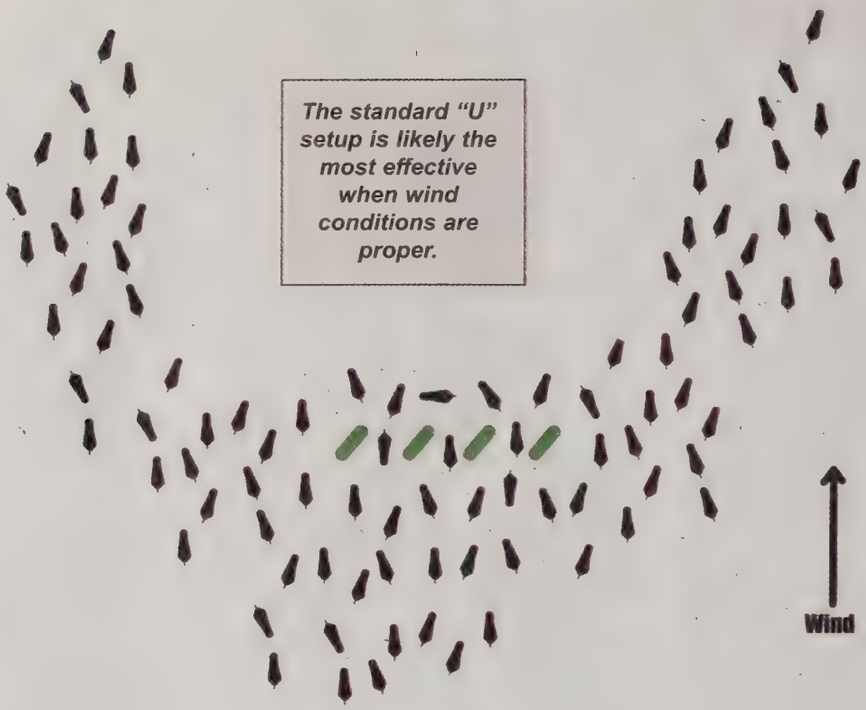


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The standard "U" setup is likely the most effective when wind conditions are proper.

Big honkers need a lot of room to approach your spread and land. Part of this is their size while the other component is their wary nature. In a traditional straight-on downwind situation, your decoys should be placed to let the birds approach from downwind while targeting the main body of your decoys. This will put the birds literally in your lap. Here's how.

Place the majority of your decoys—about 60% of them—around your blinds and behind you. Spread them out wide and deep; 50-yards wide or wider if you have enough decoys and about 15 or 20-yards deep, mostly behind your blinds. Keep the decoys six to ten-feet apart; as this will give your spread more of a footprint in the field you are hunting. This is your main, for lack of a better term, 'blob'.

Now you need to put out two side pods of decoys—20% on each side—reaching downwind but to each side while leaving a landing line directly downwind of the shooters. It should resemble a "U" with the majority of the decoys on the bottom end of the U.

If you don't have enough decoys to complete a U, use a "J" with about an 80:20 split with the main body at the bottom of the J. There are several modifications to this spread that will work. Depending on wind and terrain conditions, however, you will have to make adjustments on the fly by watching the birds and adjusting decoys. If the wind changes by only a few degrees, the geese will still approach from downwind and line up with the main "blob" of decoys. This will put them too far left or right of the shooters. Adjust the main "blob" to keep the birds approaching in such a way that when they try to land they are in front of all of the shooters.

If you have a situation where there are very high winds, a different decoy set is required. Have a look at the 2010 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations booklet for my article called 'When Decoys Tumble' for a different approach to decoy layout.

Good luck in your pursuit of big honkers this hunting season! ■







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Battle of Alberta Birds



by Neil Waugh

Alberta is a province of contrasts and conflicts.

Two major metros who each think they're the leader of the economic pack.

Pro hockey and football teams who have a healthy dislike for each other.

Two dominating landscapes that contradict in so many ways. One a treeless prairie with uninterrupted views all the way to the Eastern Slopes. The other a tight, forested chaos where views only happen when man intervenes with a cutline or road allowance.

Each Alberta solitude has its own admirers and detractors. A southern guy asks why anyone would bother hunting in a country where the bush all but obstructs the front sight of your shotgun.

While a northerner wonders what's all this fuss about prickly pear cactus and wild rose tangles in country that Captain John Palliser once wrote off as a desert. And he wasn't far from wrong.

It's only reasonable to expect that this province of differences would extend to the upland game we hunt.

The Battle of Alberta Birds is also a duel of disparity that pits the gaudy imported ringed-neck pheasant of the south against the north's favourite native, the perfectly camouflaged ruffed grouse—who has been drumming in the Alberta woods long before the first European fur traders showed up.

And while the pheasant has a large support network of organizations, clubs and a hatchery dedicated to keep it on the landscape, the bush partridge is pretty well left to fend for itself.

There's even a class system at play between ring-necks and ruffies that comes right down to the dogs.



A sucessful southern Alberta pheasant hunt.

Pheasant hunters take to field with high-powered pointers and hair-trigger setters with pedigrees as long as your arm.

While grouse dogs tend to come in a variety of breeds—mixed or otherwise—that have never seen the inside of the Canadian Kennel Club.

Pheasants, which were first released over a hundred years ago, have become the iconic game bird of the south. But in the northern woods ruffies rule.

Still, despite their differences, Alberta ruffed grouse and pheasants are a hoot to hunt.

Here are a few tips to help make your Alberta upland experience a rewarding one.

Habitat

When it comes to upland birds, habitat is everything. If a critter doesn't have a safe, secure place to hide, breed, nest and find food and shelter, then it won't hang around for long.

Both pheasants and grouse have their own preferred habitats, which are as different as the country they live in.

In pheasant country, the prospect of an endless expanse of short grass prairie or barley and wheat stubbles a section or more in size can be intimidating.

The same thing goes for the boreal forests of the north.

How the heck do you find a bird in all that emptiness? Well, you don't.

Instead, concentrate on the places that tend to concentrate the game.

In pheasant country, that means coulees, fence lines, old irrigation ditches, field corners, caragana windrows, cattail "tules", abandoned homesteads or anywhere else where there's an abundance of undisturbed cover. When it comes to wild birds rather than the Canadian Pheasant Company stockers, which are regularly released in the traditional pheasant range during the hunting season, the tighter the cover the better. Even at that, wild birds would rather run than fly.

Conversely, released roosters will sit so tight that it's almost impossible to bust them without stepping on them.

Here's where a dog comes in.

Because the pheasant zone, roughly south of the Red Deer River, is largely private agricultural land, access is always going to be an issue. But there are also large areas where public access is allowed. Many landowners that were enrolled with the defunct RAMP program have continued to permit controlled access. There are also many sections of accessible land managed by the Alberta Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited and the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

But the biggest block of public access property is the sprawling Eastern Irrigation District lands around Brooks. Not all of it is pheasant habitat but there's enough of it out there that you rarely bump into another hunting party.

There are also three official pheasant release sites listed in the regulations booklet plus several more that aren't publicized.

Ruffed grouse hunters have no such angst over access. Sometimes there seems to be too much of it since most ruffie hunting takes place



on Crown land, specifically the great boreal forest that covers all of northern Alberta that hasn't been cleared for agriculture.

The successful grouse hunter, unlike the pheasant aficionado where cover is king, hunts forested areas where there's an opening.

This means that mercurial part of the forest referred to as "edge". While there are many miles of old logging trails and community pasture margins in Alberta, the number one source of edge is the oil patch.

Here there's a matrix of cutlines, pipeline right-of-ways, well sites and lease roads cut through the bush. Add to it government requirements that disturbed ground be quickly revegetated (usually with a seed mixture containing the ruffie's favourite fall fodder, red clover) and it becomes the closest thing to ruffed grouse heaven. Forest edge with an abundant food source.

Focus on uplands that have a high percentage of aspen poplar in the forest mix.

Hunting these areas can put a satisfying heft in your upland vest's game pouch. But remember, this is a working landscape, be absolutely sure of your shot, hunt the least-traveled roads and stay away from anywhere where work is happening.



Forest 'edge" is a key to ruffed grouse hunting success.

Guns and Ammo

The flush of an upland bird, whether it is the raucous cackle of a cock pheasant or the heart-stopping "burr" of a fleeing ruffed grouse, is one of the great outdoors moments.

What happens next, of course, is just as important where success can often depend on what's over your arm or up the spout.



A northern Alberta ruffed grouse makes for fine table fare.

Pheasants are big tough birds and the wild ones have a nasty habit of flushing far out. A double, pump or auto in 12 or 20 gauge are all effective shotguns for pheasants. But your choice of load can make a big difference in the success or failure sweepstakes.

Pheasant loads need some steam and should come in larger shot sizes from four to six shot for the killing power required to down a tough rooster.

Ruffed grouse loads are completely different. I've hunted for years with bargain loads from the big box store.

The secret to success is getting enough balls in the air in hopes that a few make it through the dense screen of leaves, branches, and tree trunks that make hunting grouse in the mixed forest boreal so challenging and fun.

So I load with 7 1/2 shot. As long as I have a safe shot, I like to shoot every flush, no matter how impossible it might be.

Ruffed grouse hunting in a dense forest situation requires lightning fast hand/eye coordination. Try training yourself to instinctively shoulder your gun at the sound of the bird. Believe me; it makes a difference, especially in the early season when the leaves are still on.

This is fast shooting, so an auto or double barrel is probably a better choice in shotgun then a pump.

The Dog Factor

Upland bird hunting is traditionally done in the company of dogs. Not because they make for pretty paintings, but because the nose and bird-busting ability that a good dog brings to the hunt makes your flush rate go up exponentially. The next part is up to you.

Here's one area where the Alberta pheasant and grouse hunter can finally get together on.

Well, almost. Far ranging pointers and setters can cover a lot of ground in wide-open pheasant country. But in the cozy confines of the grouse woods, a tight hunting dog like a Labrador will increase your success rate and lower your lost dog anxiety level.

Albertans agree to disagree on a number of levels. Upland game birds are just another skirmish in that never-ending friendly feud they call the Battle of Alberta. ■

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FLAT TOPS



by TJ Schwanky

Flat tops, skillets, skinheads; call them what you want, but all you need to do is look through the hunting regulations to see that ample opportunity exists in Alberta to hunt the females of many different species.

I find it amazing how few hunters actually take part in these hunts, as not only do they provide a great source of fodder for the barbeque, they also offer some great hunting opportunities for novice and experienced hunter alike.

It seems there is a stigma in Alberta that you are somewhat less of a hunter if you partake in these hunts, but nothing could be further from the truth. These hunts are a very important part of wildlife management in the province and game managers rely on hunters to help them control population numbers. If you have never tried your luck on these unique hunts, you really should, as it truly is a case of win/win for all involved.

While some of the opportunities require you to forgo hunting for antlered specimens, numerous others provide opportunity in addition to antlered hunts.



Mule deer doe tags exist across the province.

Mule Deer – Opportunities to hunt mule deer does, exists right across the province. There are several seasons for holders of a general tag with the most notable being the archery-only zones surrounding Calgary and Edmonton and the Foothills Deer licence. These seasons allow opportunity in addition to the regular mule deer seasons and are held to help control expanding deer populations near urban centres.

While securing permission can be a challenge for these hunts, harvest opportunity is very high and some of the seasons extend beyond regular deer seasons, providing additional opportunity later in the year.

These hunts also provide a great opportunity for hunters to hone their archery and muzzleloader skills.

Additionally, mule deer hunters may apply for both antlered and antlerless tags in many WMUs. The odds of drawing antlerless tags are typically very good, as is the opportunity to fill them. I partake in this hunt nearly every year and many years multiple tags are given out. This can be a very easy way to put a large amount of quality venison in the freezer. It also provides a great opportunity to scout a WMU and establish a relationship with landowners for the time when you do draw an antlered tag.

White-tailed Deer – As with mule deer, there are a number of opportunities to hunt antlerless white-tailed deer in addition to the general and draw tags available.

Also, as with mule deer, numerous opportunities exist for the archer and muzzleloader hunter in the areas surrounding both Edmonton and Calgary, and in the Foothills zone surrounding Calgary, and Strathcona County near Edmonton.



Supplemental tags create excellent opportunities for young hunters.

There is also an additional supplemental antlerless licence available that allows the harvest of antlerless deer in a large number of WMUs in addition to your general white-tailed deer licence.

Rare is the year when I don't have a supplemental tag in my pocket. White-tailed deer are some of the finest table fare there is and a fat doe or two for the freezer is always welcome.

I know a couple of landowners that appreciate the harvest of does on their land and it makes obtaining future permission that much easier.

Elk – For rifle hunters, they must decide between an antlered tag and antlerless tag when applying for a special elk licence, but the wait times for drawing an antlerless licence in many WMUs are quite low.

In my mind, almost nothing beats the taste of a young cow elk and opportunities on both public and private land abound. Most farmers and ranchers are pleased to grant permission for

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elk hunting and with some antlerless elk seasons extending into January, it greatly increases opportunity after the regular season has ended.

There is also a special draw for antlerless elk in a portion of WMU 212. This licence may be applied for in addition to the regular elk licences and provides an opportunity in the months of December and January. This is a special weapon hunt that includes bow, crossbow, shotgun and muzzleloader. An additional archery opportunity also exists for archers in WMU 212 as well.

Moose – While there are no additional opportunities for antlerless moose, hunters may elect to apply for either calf or antlerless moose in a number of WMUs through regular draws. Additionally, there are often calf tags left over after the draws and for hunters that were unsuccessful in the draw, they can purchase one of these remaining undersubscribed tags.

While drawing an antlered tag in many WMUs can take years, calf tags can often be drawn every year, providing some incredible meat for the freezer. To determine your odds of drawing a licence, you can consult the previous year's draw success at mywildalberta.com.

Antelope – Hunters in Alberta also have the opportunity to hunt for non-trophy antelope through the draw process. A hunter may apply for both trophy and non-trophy antelope in the same year, but may only draw one of the licences.



A fine non-trophy antelope.

While some people aren't fans of antelope meat, when handled properly, I think it is some of the finest there is.

Depending on antelope populations, it's often possible to draw a couple of non-trophy tags in the same amount of time it takes to draw a trophy licence. It's also a great opportunity to scout prime antelope country for the day when you do draw a coveted trophy licence.

Bighorn Sheep – Alberta also offers an opportunity to hunt non-trophy sheep in a large number of WMUs. For my money, this is the finest meat of any of the ungulates in the province.



Hunters can apply for both trophy and non-trophy sheep in the same year.

Hunters are permitted to enter the draws for both trophy and non-trophy sheep in the same year and they may hold both tags in the same year as well. For those that love the mountains, this hunt provides a very high-quality experience with the bonus of the meat and the opportunity to scout for trophy sheep.

Many of Alberta's WMUs have fairly limited winter range and it's critical to keep sheep numbers in check. This is one opportunity I take advantage of at every chance. Depending where you elect to hunt, you can draw this licence on a fairly regular basis.

As you can see, Alberta's non-trophy and antlerless game provides an incredible amount of extra opportunity for hunters in this province.

In addition to the ones listed, there are many general tags available for archers and there are additional youth licences available as well.

For those looking to increase their time afield or just for some delicious meat for the freezer, these non-trophy and antlerless licences are the perfect solutions.

Take a little time to go through the regulations and I'm sure you'll find a number of opportunities close to you.

These licences are also an excellent way to introduce young or new hunters to our great heritage. Tags are typically easy to obtain, in many cases are relatively inexpensive, and the odds of success can be very high. Even for the dedicated trophy hunter, they represent the perfect means to keep your trophy tag in your pocket waiting for that once-in-a-lifetime buck while still putting some meat in the freezer.

Once you get past the stigma that surrounds hunting the females of the species, the reasons to hunt them are numerous. Be sure to get out and give it a try this year. ■

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Bowhunting Alberta BLACK BEARS



by Kevin Wilson

Both resident and visiting bowhunters know Alberta is a premier destination for black bear hunting, and for good reason. A two-bear per hunter limit in many WMUs, both a spring and fall season, a high population density, colour-phase options, baiting and spot-and-stalk opportunities, excellent trophy potential, and exceptional access to public land, all combine to make Alberta one of the most attractive places on the continent for this highly sought-after predator.

Whether you like waiting over bait or prefer the proactive spot-and-stalk approach, black bears are abundant in Alberta, inhabiting 74 percent of the province. For bowhunters, black bears are the perfect target species. Typically secretive, curious, and even playful in their natural environment, they are omnivores, meaning they are opportunists, eating whatever is available.

You've probably heard me say this before, but here it is again—the only thing predictable about bears is that they're unpredictable. Under most circumstances, they want nothing to do with people. Even still, extreme caution should be exercised when hunting black bears.

Alberta's bear seasons are open during both the spring and fall and, for the archer, this equates to as much as five months of hunting opportunity each year.

Predatory in nature, bears have little to fear, so their instincts and defense mechanisms are different from most other game species. Motivated by their stomachs, when they're not sleeping, they're on the move foraging for a meal. For the baiting enthusiast, this creates a world of opportunity. For the spot-and-stalk hunter, locating a bear intent on feeding can create the perfect distraction.



Baiting black bears is legal in some WMUs. It offers a great opportunity for a close range shot.

Baiting – Alberta hunting regulations allow the baiting of black bears in select Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), generally in those less likely to have significant grizzly bear populations. Certain locations and types of bait work better than others for attracting and holding bears. Ingredients aside, it can be an art designing a bowhunter-friendly bait site. Just tossing out food scraps in a likely looking location may produce bears, but several things should be considered to make it a truly productive bait site conducive to hunting with bow and arrow.

Likewise, many archers have learned that baiting facilitates a selective harvest, literally allowing them to grow bears, as many will return to the site year after year. In other words, experienced baiters will often choose to watch bears until they grow to meet record book minimum eligibility.



A 3D target is a great tool for archers to practice for their bowhunt.

Most archers prefer shot distances of less than 20 metres and bait sites give bowhunters the ability to predetermine their shot distance. It's difficult to describe the excitement of close-range hunting, particularly for black bears, but that's what baiting is all about. Ridge lines along rivers and creeks, especially near beaver dams, are ideal as bears use these travel corridors extensively, but caution should be taken to consider likely directions of approach and exit, both for the hunter and for the bears. Once the bait site becomes active and bears are visiting routinely, trails will become evident and hunters can easily identify the most probable directions of travel. Stands or blinds can be adjusted accordingly to best position the bowhunter for a shot opportunity. The pressing challenge for bowhunters is shot angle. Given that bears frequent bait sites more often during the evening hours, extra care should be given to analyzing thermals. Bears rely most heavily on their sense of smell to locate food and detect danger. By evading their nose, bowhunters increase their odds of avoiding detection. A carefully placed blind can position a bowhunter for an on-the-ground encounter but many prefer to sit in a treestand over bait.

I like to use two 45-gallon drums at each site. These are attached with chains to a sturdy tree. Each barrel has a small hole (i.e., 12 centimetres square at most) cut in the bottom, or at mid-line, to allow the bears to pick away at the provisions, e.g., cookies, popcorn, pastries or whatever else is placed inside. As a rule, I like to rotate each barrel so that the holes are facing in opposite directions, approximately 90-degrees from each other, forcing visiting bears to offer either a broadside or quartering away shot. I also like to crib behind the barrels in a manner that again forces the bears to stand where I want them. Bears have an uncanny knack for sneaking in behind the barrels, reaching around and grabbing whatever they



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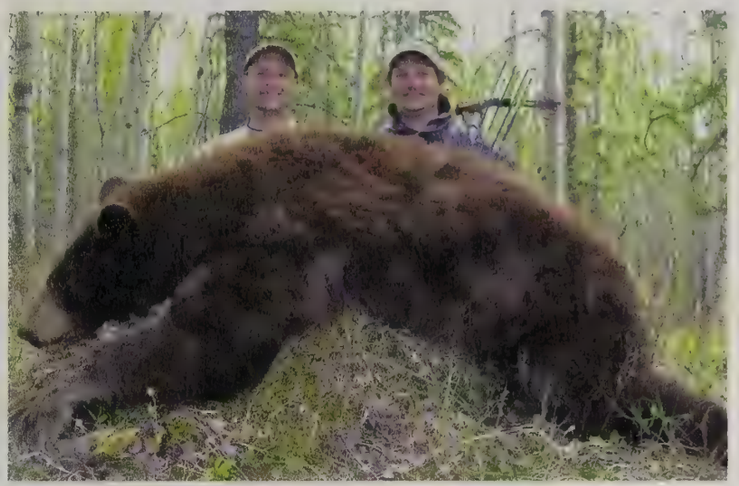
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an without stepping in front. Logs and other eadfall used to crib the barrels eliminate that ption, forcing them walk between the bait and he hunter.

Beaver carcasses are necessary at bait sites. hese are typically hung from a cross-ole above the bait barrels or on trees in manner that makes them less ccessible. A natural food source, no elf-respecting bear can resist the aroma nd taste of a fresh beaver carcass.

Beyond these basics, bowhunting bear ait sites involves exercising patience nd waiting for just the right shot angle. oing to full draw when the bear is reoccupied digging at the bait or eating, n most instances archers have plenty of me to aim and execute an accurate shot.

Now for the qualifier—baiting is a ton f work and it does not guarantee a bear. 've baited bears for most of the last 20 ears, but I have to say that spot-and-talk hunting is by far my favourite way o hunt them.



Alberta black bears come in a range of colour phases.

Spot-and-Stalk – Motivated by insatiable ppetites, black bears can frequently be seen razing in the spring on lush cutlines, clear-uts, south-facing slopes, riverbanks, horelines, and lush clover-laden pipelines. In he early spring, finding a healthy stand of lover can be the ticket. Locate tracks and fresh scat in heavy clover, and chances are you'll see a bear there in short order.

In the fall, spot-and-stalk hunters generally experience the best success in standing oat fields as bears frequent this easy food source in preparation for the long winter ahead.

For the spot-and-stalk bowhunter, closing the distance is key. While most other game species have keen eyesight, bears don't. Their hearing is good, but it's not their strongest sense. Fool a bear's nose, move in quietly, and the bowhunter has an exceptional chance at sneaking in to under 40 metres. Under ideal conditions, it is not uncommon to close that distance to 20-metres.

This past spring while guiding a bear hunter, we were able to sneak up on a bruin feeding on clover. Watching him for almost 10 minutes, the bear eventually startled and jumped up a nearby poplar. I immediately ran at him, pushing him further up the tree. In turn, the hunter was offered an easy 10-metre shot. With a little care and attention to detail, in many instances, bowhunters can sneak to within bow range by using the wind and advancing when the bear is preoccupied with feeding. While black bears will not always take to the trees, if you're lucky enough to have it happen, it creates an ideal shot opportunity with a bow.

Like all bowhunting, pre-hunt practice using a 3D target is imperative. Although the target itself is small, it provides great practice and is more true-to-life than most of us might think. It's important to remember that at least three-to-six centimetres (sometimes more) of the visible body mass is hair. Remember also that the vitals are positioned forward, directly between and slightly behind the shoulders, so understanding anatomical make-up is imperative. For the hunting archer, shot placement is critical. Bears are tough, and a double lung shot should be your goal.

Good luck in your pursuit of Alberta black bears this hunting season. ■





STILL-HUNTING WHITETAILS



by Brad Fenson

The hoar frost clung to the trees like a chilled blanket, engulfing every branch with a thick, fuzzy coat of ice. It gave the cold November morning a bit of an eerie feeling as we headed out in the pale light. The temperatures were anything but comfortable but the moisture and frost that hung in the air and on the vegetation helped to absorb the noise and sounds that we produced walking on the crunchy snow.

Normally I like to still hunt by myself but with the environmental advantage we had that morning, my son Cam and I opted to sneak down the game trail together in search of an elusive whitetail buck. The frosty conditions actually helped us visually as well. We passed the edge of a pasture and the dark and distinct colours of a herd of Herefords stood out like a neon sign. They looked more alive than ever and were easy to spot even at a distance. I knew the deer would show up in a similar manner.

We slowly and methodically continued down the fence line stopping to glass every inch of the cover ahead of us with regularity. We were just cresting a rise when a patch of reddish-brown hair could be distinguished ahead of us through the trees. Binoculars quickly confirmed that it was a mature buck and with a unique drop tine, we knew that a game plan was required.



Successful still-hunting requires the hunter move with extreme caution, avoiding all noise hazards.

With careful movement, we got into position where we could see the buck through the trees. He was feeding ravenously on the edge of the pasture and looked like he hadn't eaten in days. During the rut, bucks often feed heavily before going to bed after a night of chasing does. The buck never had a clue we were there and as Cam settled in behind his muzzleloader, we patiently waited for the deer to turn broadside. Minutes passed by but we knew we had the upper hand and just had to wait. Still-hunting is a game of patience in many ways.

When the buck had eaten his fill, he turned to head down the fence line but paused for just a second. Gray smoke belched from Cam's

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muzzleloader and I saw the buck hunch up with he telltale signs that he'd been hit. Cam's eyes vere as big as his face as he reloaded with a nild case of big-buck jitters. We made our way ver to the treeline and found the buck just 10 netres into the cover. We shared the exciting noment with a big high-five as the excitement rupted between us.

There is nothing that feels better than neaking up on a deer without being detected nd bringing it all to a successful end by using our honed hunting skills.

Still-hunting is the art and science of hunting n foot to slowly and methodically locate deer efore they see you. It can be a very frustrating r rewarding way to hunt whitetails, depending n how you approach things.



Slow and deliberate always wins the race, or in the case of still-hunting, get's the deer.

Slow and steady – In order to still hunt uccessfully, you have to move at a very slow peed. White-tailed deer are designed to detect novement with their eyes and ears and if you ren't super stealthy, you will be busted every ime, long before you see the deer. The goal is o see the deer before hey see you and to put ourself into a position to uccessfully harvest it ithout ever being letected.



Every inch of cover should be examined thoroughly.

Most people don't have he patience for still-unting. It is basically aking one or two steps at time and stopping to isually check everything n front of you before noving again. You have o stay vigilant to your low pace and if you try to start moving longer tretches at a time, you immediately make ourself susceptible to being seen. It is like the tory of the tortoise and the hare, where slow nd steady will win the race, or in still-hunting circles, find the deer.

Every step needs to be slow and deliberate. Soft-soled footwear is usually worn to allow you to settle your foot after each step with virtually no noise. You have to watch the ground and avoid sticks and twigs. Looking ahead will allow you to see the path of least resistance, and noise-related hazards ahead of you. It can take hours to hunt a couple hundred metres of habitat, but it is the slow pace that provides you with the view that the deer normally has.

Good optics – Besides moving extremely slow, you need to search every inch of cover ahead of you from the base of every tree to distant fence lines, or any other cover that may hide a deer. Taking a few steps forward opens up a small band of new country that you check with your binoculars, while rechecking all the same cover you've already looked over many times. Deer are masters at blending into their environment, and often the flicker of an ear or the glimpse of hide is all you'll need to locate your quarry.

Nothing is sweeter than spotting a big buck bedded at the top of a ridge enjoying the sunshine. Watching intently after each step to finally see a deer slowly walk into view is another regular occurrence for those that have mastered the art of still-hunting.

Good optics are essential to ensure your eyes don't get tired, but also to provide the clarity to distinguish subtle colour differences or movement that can be hard to detect. I wear my binoculars on a chest pack to keep them handy and to minimize my movement when lifting them or taking them down from my eyes. All of your movements, hands, feet and body, need to be as slow as you've ever moved.



2011 WILD GAME FOR THE FOODBANK PROGRAM

Only Elk, Moose and Deer are eligible for donations.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alberta Hunters Who Care Deer for the Foodbank Program in 2010. This is the fifteenth year of our program that has seen more than 175,000 pounds of high quality wild game donated to the Edmonton Foodbank. Please help us feed those in need again in 2011. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate.

Important Changes for 2011:

1. Wild game will now be accepted in Calgary for distribution through the Calgary Foodbank. See the Hunting for Tomorrow website or call our information line for details (780-443-6006).
2. We will now accept donations from Oct 15, 2011 to Dec 15, 2011.
3. There are no extra wild game tags allotted for this program. You are asked to share the harvest from any one of the general season, supplementary or undersubscribed elk, moose or deer tags that are available.
4. Only elk, moose or deer that have been harvested between October 15 and December 15, 2011 during the regular hunting seasons are eligible for this program.
5. The elk, moose or deer cannot be completely frozen and it must be delivered to a participating meat processor within 24 hours from the time of harvest.
6. Please contact the processor to ensure whether the elk, moose or deer can be brought in skinned or unskinned.
7. There are no processing costs charged to the donating hunter. The processing costs are paid by the **Alberta Hunters Who Care** association through financial donations by hunting organizations including our primary sponsors: **APOS Legacy Fund, Safari Club International, Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Fish & Game Association** and **2010 Minister's Special Licence Program.**

To find the complete donation guidelines and the list of participating meat processors, please call our 24 hour information line at 780-443-6006. Or you can visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at www.huntingfortomorrow.com. Our wild game donation information is found under their **Facts and Fiction** section under **Fact #11**.

You can also contact the **Alberta Hunters Who Care** Supervisors:

- For Edmonton area please contact Jim Thomson at 780-962-9452 or Gordon Corcoran at 780-842-3774
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Look twice before moving – When you're sure you've looked everything over carefully, look again. You'll likely get anxious to start moving quicker and if you drop your guard at all, you'll quickly make a mistake. When there is lots of cover in front of me, I often stand for several minutes between each step before advancing. It just makes it easier for you to detect movement.

I use my ears as much as my eyes and often hear the subtle footsteps of a deer before I see it. Your senses should all be on high alert, as whitetails are no matter what they are doing.

Look behind you – When you're moving at such a slow pace, you could have deer approach you from any direction. Don't forget to watch behind you, as deer could just as easily show up there as in front of you.



When you find a deer, do not rush. Rather, slowly move into position taking advantage of your patience.

You need to become completely familiar with the environment around you so that you quickly recognize when something is different, or if there is movement. Take lots of time between each step and make sure you look at everything around you—without exception.

When you find deer don't rush – When you spot your first deer, it will feel very exciting. Especially if you'd done it right and the deer has no idea that you are there. Again, stay slow, methodical, and set up for the shot, or put yourself into position to take advantage of your patience and hunting skills. This is not the time to rush.

Taking a deer by sneaking up on it is the ultimate reward and a good sign that you've been paying attention to all the details when you are deer hunting. Take the challenge—try still-hunting your next buck. ■

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TIPS FOR COOKING WILD GAME



by Duane Radford

If it's handled well in the field and properly cooked in the kitchen, wild game is fit for a king.

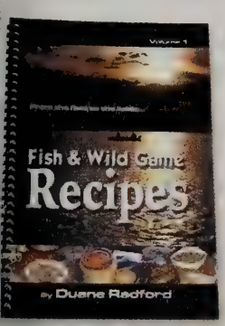
I'm going to outline how to care for wild fowl and big game in the field to ensure their quality table fare, and then how to cook wild fowl and big game to optimize their eating qualities.

Once a big game animal is downed and bagged, it should be field dressed immediately, with the hide taken off as soon as practical. The hide on a big game animal will retain body heat, so the carcass must be chilled, otherwise it will spoil or develop a "gamey taste." I'll preface these requirements with a quote from Susan Kane-Doyle, Canada's outdoor recipe queen. In terms of cooking fowl and wild game, Sue says, "As with all cooking, fresh is best. And for the outdoorsmen, what gets ruined in the field cannot be made better in the kitchen."



A roasted venison loin is an epicurian treat.

Proper care and handling of fowl and wild game is essential to ensure their optimum table quality. My award-winning cookbook, *From the Field to the Table: Fish and Wild Game Recipes,* which can be obtained from the Alberta Outdoorsmen magazine (albertaoutdoorsmen.ca/ao-store.html), has pages of tips on the proper care of fish and wild game. Check it out for further details.



If *your* wild fowl and big game tastes "gamey", it's most likely because it wasn't cared for in the field, aged and/or butchered properly. Ensure the internal temperature of the meat is cooled to 4 C (40 F) or below within 24 hours to prevent spoilage. Trim fat from the carcass, and all bloodshot meat. Antelope carcasses should be cut and wrapped for the freezer within three days after the kill; short aging helps prevent a liver-like or mushy texture sometimes found in antelope meat. Young game animals will be tender and do not have to be aged, whereas mature animals should be aged from one to two weeks.

Keep shot grouse, partridge, pheasants and waterfowl out of the sun; dress them as soon as practical, definitely when you return home from your hunt.

Game must be wrapped in good quality freezer paper or vacuum-sealed, and stored at 0 C (32F) or below. Fowl is highly subject to freezer burn, so it should be eaten as soon as possible, no longer than 3-4 months after being frozen to ensure optimal eating quality.

In the kitchen, job one is to cook wild game slowly at a low heat because it's a lean, low fat meat—otherwise it will be dry and chewy. You can compensate for lean meat by using marinades or slow cooking techniques, and various recipes that help retain moisture in the meat. The same rules apply to fowl, which also tends to be lean and on the dry side.

Ensure your fowl and wild game is properly unthawed once it's out of the freezer, washed clean of any blood, patted dry with a paper towel, and trimmed of any fat or connective tissue. Fat from wild game has a very strong, unpleasant taste.

There are various cooking techniques that come into play such as braising and using slow cookers that should be considered when cooking wild game, especially cuts from mature animals, which may need to be tenderized even after being aged for one to two weeks.



Big game animals should be skinned as soon as possible even, when outside temperatures are cool.

Braising (from the French "braiser"), is a combination cooking method using both moist and dry heat. Typically, the food is first seared at a relatively high temperature, and then finished in a covered pot or skillet with a variable amount of liquid, resulting in a particular flavour. Braising of meat is often referred to as *pot-roasting*; though some authors make a distinction between the two methods based on whether additional liquid is added.

You really can't go wrong with a venison pot roast, one of my favourite recipes for game. When I prepare a 3-4 pound venison roast, I typically cook it in a sealed oven roaster at 350 F for two hours. I never cook a venison roast without first searing it on all sides; often at the same time that I'm sauteeing some white Spanish onions. I subsequently add 3/4 cup of beef broth or onion soup mix and veggies if I'm doing a pot roast.

If I'm oven roasting 2-3 pound loins, I'll usually cook them at 400 F for 1/2 hour, after first searing them also. There are many popular reductions to accompany venison loins, featuring Saskatoon berry sauce for example, one of my favourites.

If there's anything I've learned cooking all manner of wild game and fowl, it has been to

continued on page 94

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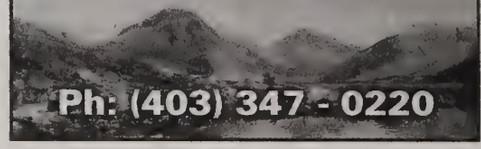
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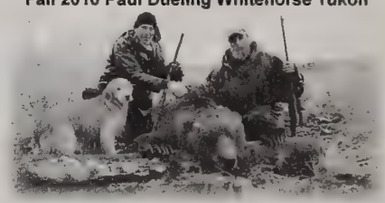


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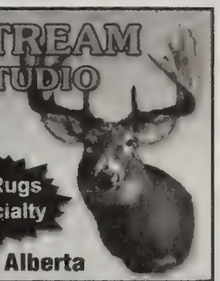
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Briasing is an ideal way to cook loins.

"keep the lid" on things. Seriously! Get in the habit of cooking wild fowl and game in skillets and roasters that have tight fitting lids. When using an oven roaster, seal the lid with a layer of aluminum foil to keep the moisture inside the container—ditto for casseroles featuring game. This isn't necessary if you're cooking meat loaf, ground meat patties or meatballs in the oven because they usually contain a lot of moisture (as part of the recipe), or they're basted with sauces that keep them moist.

I almost always cook fowl and game in butter, and seldom cook with olive oil because it has a low burn or smoke point compared with vegetable oil, which I'll use occasionally.

Another lesson is to marinade game if it's to be grilled on a barbeque, and to initially sear it at a relatively high heat and then subsequently grill it at a low heat until done.

I often marinade roasts for 24 hours or longer. Marinades tenderize meat. They also enhance the flavour of game. The standard ratio for marinades is one part vinegar or wine to three parts canola or olive oil, with spices to your liking. My go-to spices are celery seed, cloves, bay leaves, dill seed, thyme, parsley, oregano or marjoram, Italian seasoning and rosemary. I use at least 1/2 of a teaspoon of a given spice to two cups of marinade. Put the meat inside a Ziploc plastic bag; add the marinade; slosh it around; refrigerate for at least several hours or preferably overnight.

Another tip is to use rubs on steaks prior to cooking. Apply them several hours ahead of time so they set up and flavour the meat. Rubs feature spices such as paprika, cayenne pepper, garlic or onion seasoning, sea salt and black pepper. You can make your own rubs to taste without problem.

Because the meat of wild game is very lean, it's best prepared as pot roasts or chili, stews and casseroles, with marinades for steaks and kebobs, and not simply fried in a skillet because frying tends to dry it out unless done as a Swiss steak or with gobs of butter and onions. If game is not cooked at a relatively low heat, it will be tough and chewy.

Take care when you're cooking a wild fowl or game recipe to get it right. Plan ahead and get all your ingredients lined up before you start. Give yourself enough time to not only properly prepare the meal, but to cook it without feeling rushed.

Wild game cuisine is a distinctly Canadian style of cooking that dates back to our roots as a nation. It has evolved into a high-end epicurean feature on the menus of many fine dining rooms. Figure out what kind of wine or beer pairing will have a good fit so that you can truly enjoy a meal fit for a king! ■



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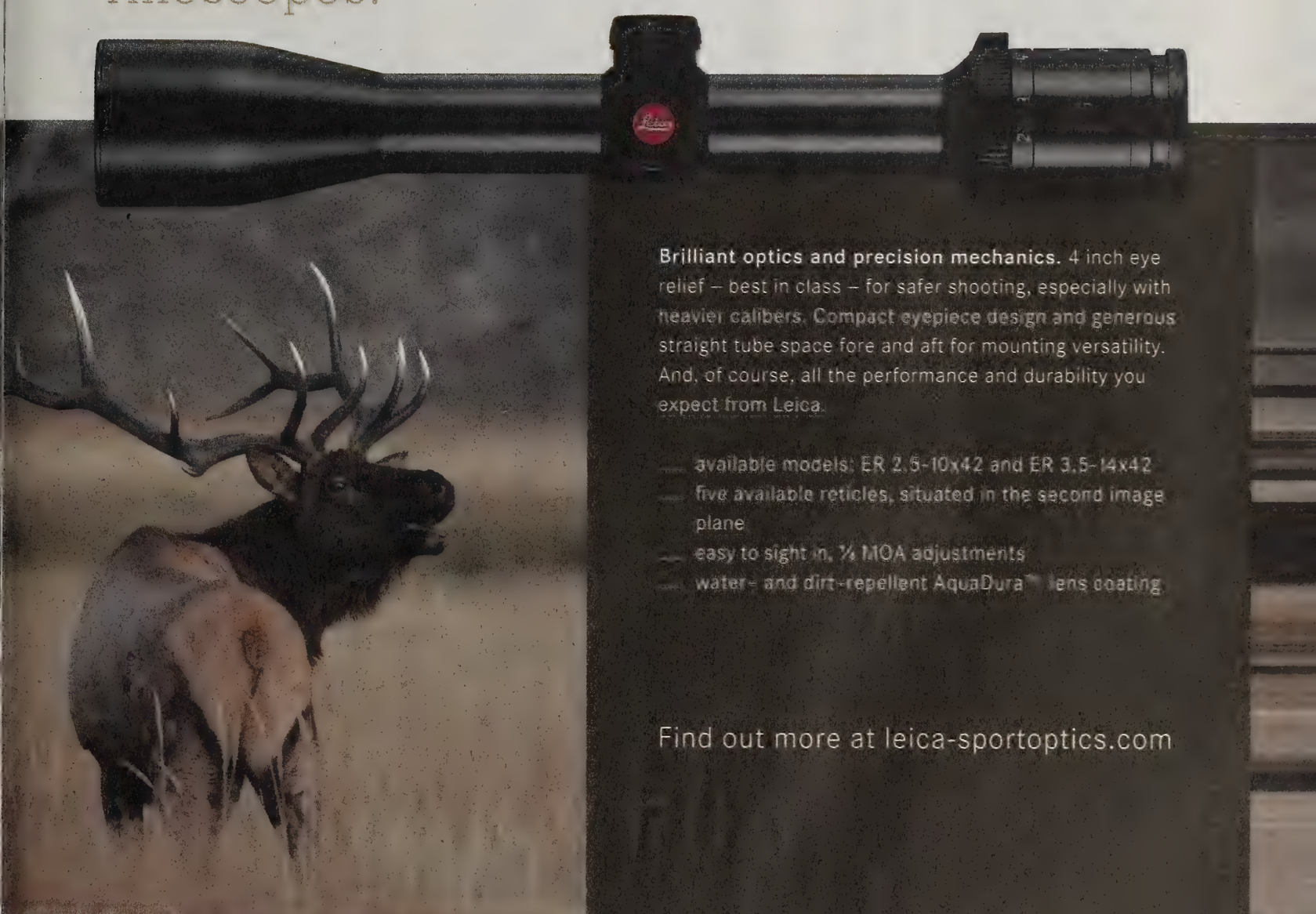
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ELK

Joel Nicholson ($250)

Joel Nicholson of Redcliff, Alberta is our 2010 Alberta Elk Hunter of the Year. Joel's bull scored 376 6/8" and was taken out of WMU 150 near Hilda. Joel wins $250 for his trophy bull elk and earns bragging rights around the campfire during the 2011 season.

Way to go Joel!



Kevin Gustafson

of Calgary, Alberta is our Mule Deer Champion and Alberta Hunter of the Year after connecting on this tremendous mule deer. Kevin's mulie grosses 207 4/8" and nets 198 3/8". Kevin's buck came from WMU 521 near Debolt in northern Alberta.

Congratulations Kevin on an incredible deer!



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Pat Bates ($250)

Pat Bates of Markerville, Alberta is our 2010 Alberta White-tailed Deer Hunter of the Year. Pat took this excellent buck in WMU 166 near Byemoor. Pat's buck grosses 192 6/8", loses 12 4/8" to net 180 2/8". An awesome whitetail!

Pat wins $250 for his 2010 trophy buck.

Good job Pat!

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2) Typically scored Whitetail, Mule Deer and Elk are the eligible species. Non-Typical scores will not qualify.
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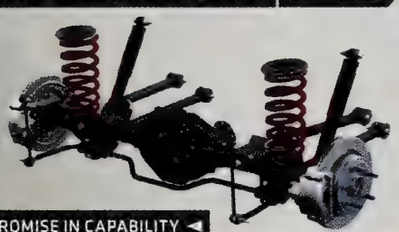
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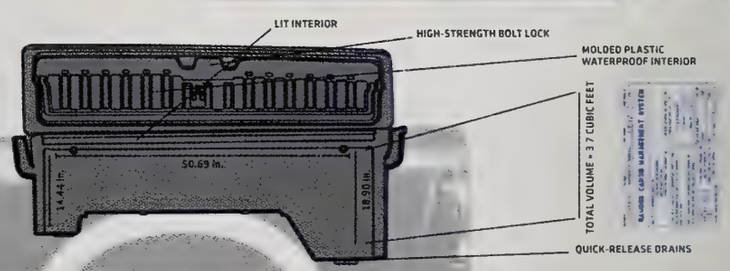


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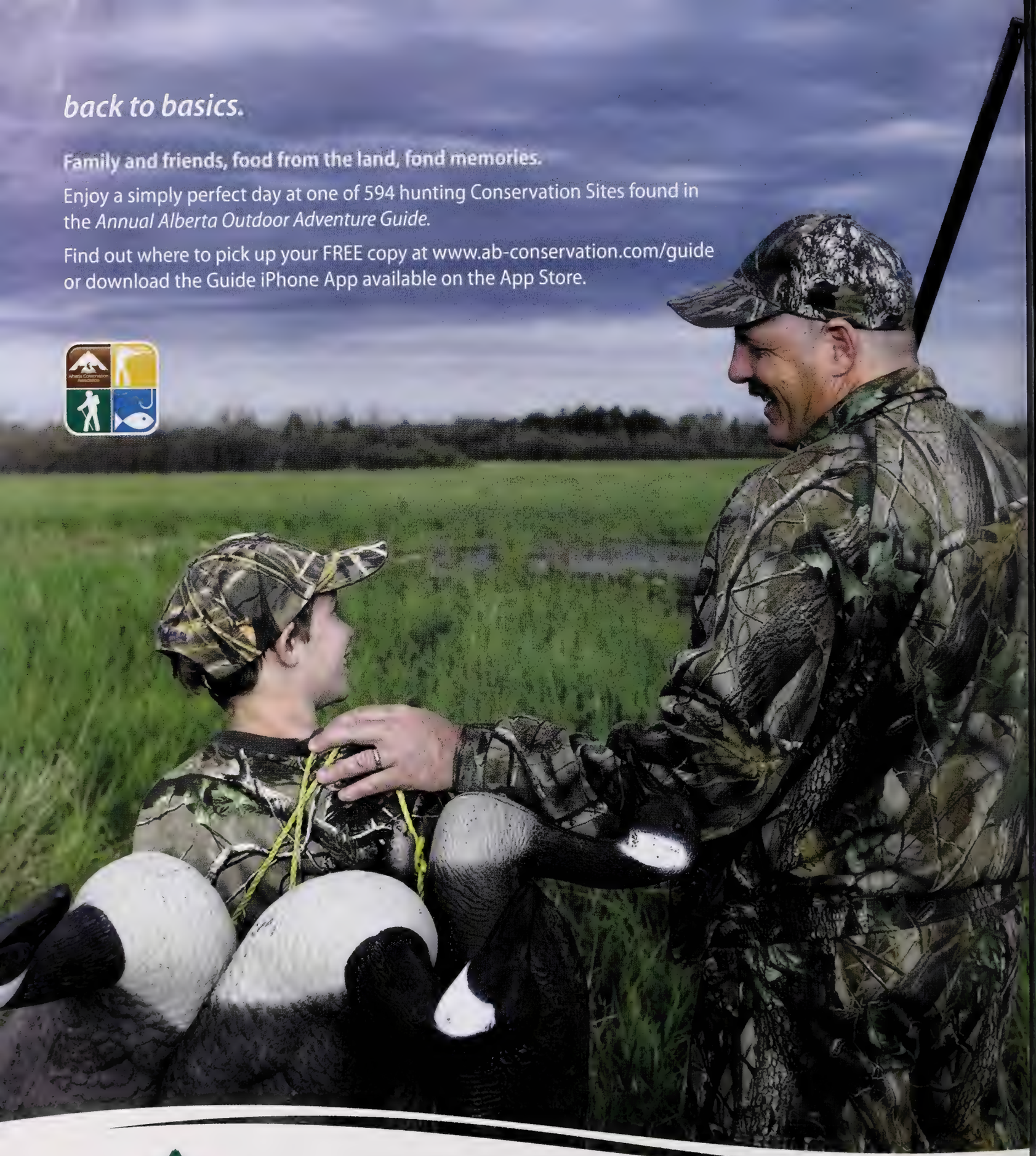
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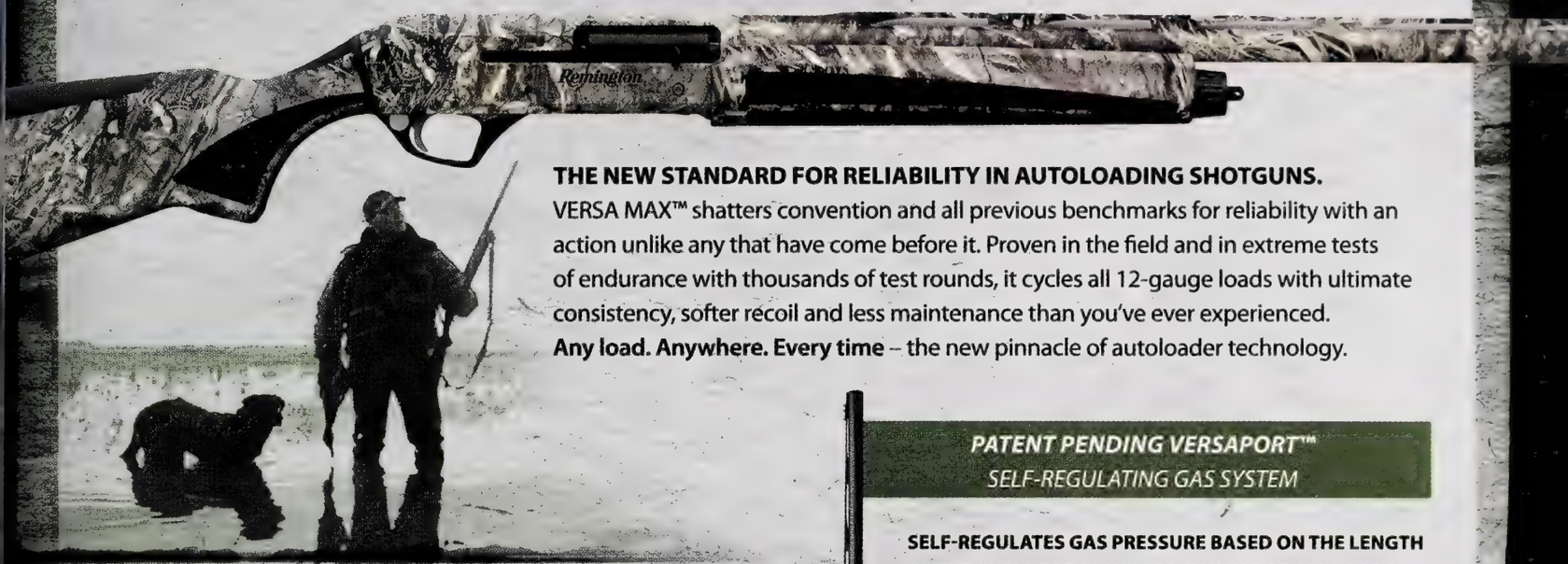
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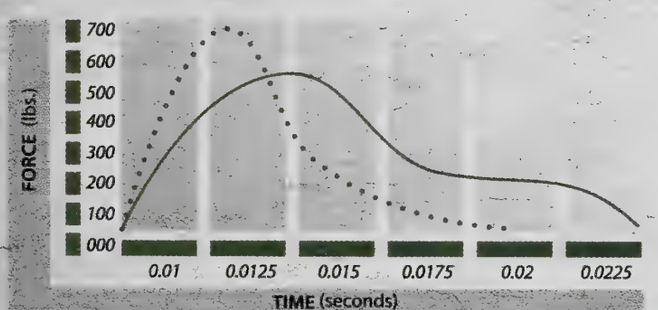


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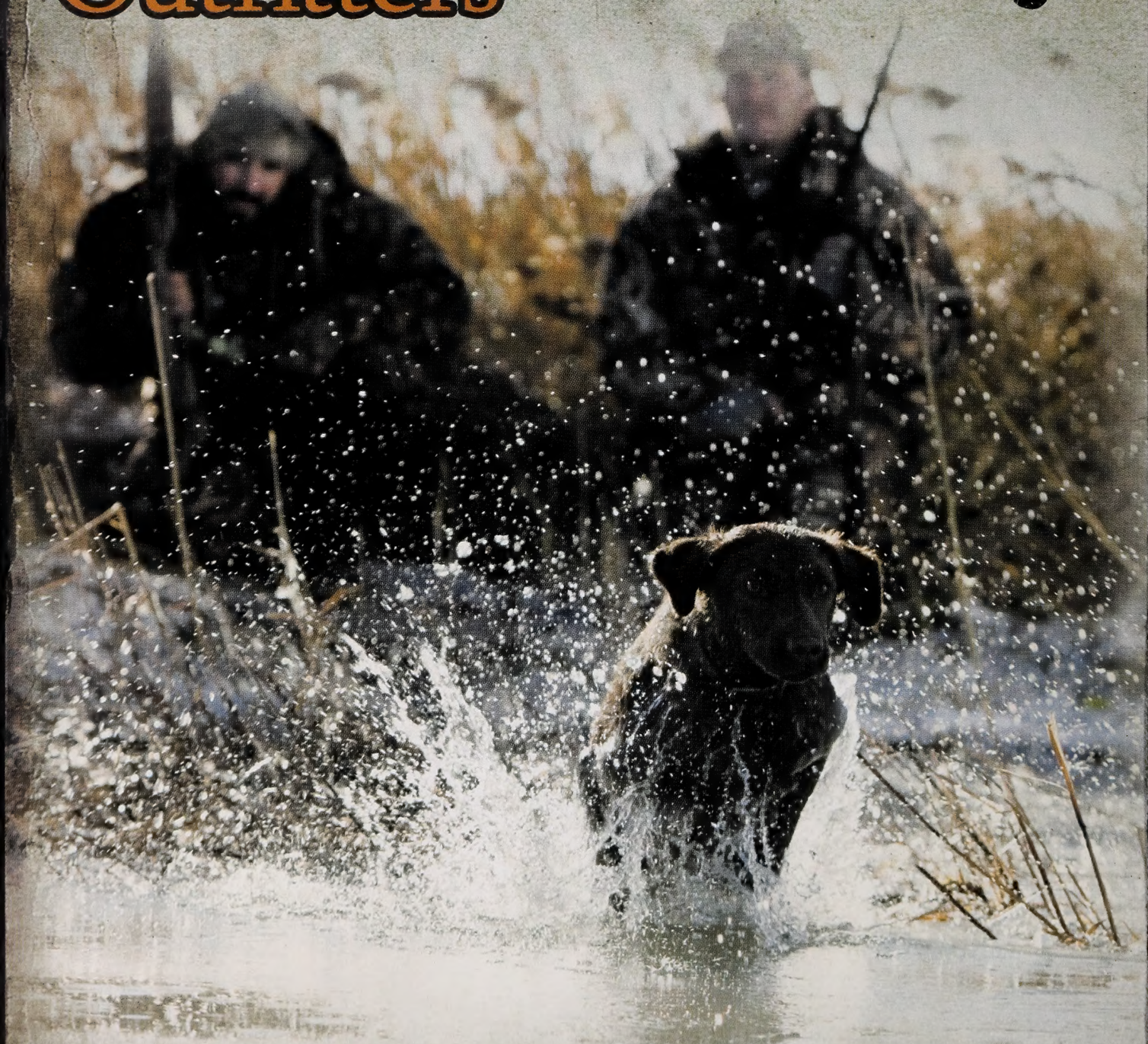
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